

The Editor is happy to receive and to consider articles from any quarter; but he cannot in any case return MSS. which are not accepted, nor will he hold interviews or correspondence concerning them.

THE ROUND TABLE.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1869.

THE OLD ENGLISH PARLIAMENT AND THE NEW.

PARLIAMENT has convened at Westminster under circumstances so novel and, indeed, unprecedented that it is not strange the eyes of Englishmen alone but of all intelligent observers should be fixed curiously upon its action. Naturally enough much of the preliminary speculation of the London press takes the form of comparing the probable doings of the new Parliament with those of its predecessor. As regards the legislation of the Parliament which adjourned on the 30th of July, to be formally dissolved thereafter, the Tory organs maintain, of course, that it has been exceedingly fruitful in results, and the extravagant praise which many of them lavish on Disraeli contrasts oddly with the equally extravagant fault-finding of the opposition journals. The former naturally claim for the ministry the credit of having given to the country the electoral reform so eagerly desired and so often denied by preceding administrations. They cite its final passage as a conclusive evidence of conservative liberality, and a sequel to the repeal of the corn laws, the Catholic and Jewish emancipation acts, and other important measures for which the nation is already indebted to the Tories. But we question whether these pretensions will deceive those who know anything of the history and the principles of that party. When men grant under compulsion what they have struggled against with all their might for years they cannot well lay claim to much gratitude, and the Tories will, therefore, hardly succeed in converting many to the belief that the progress of liberal ideas in England is due to them. Every step in advance, every improvement in the political status of the masses, has been obtained against their wishes, and never without hard fighting. Such was notoriously the case in the last Parliament. With the solitary exception of the anti-bribery bill, which is honestly due to Disraeli, the credit for every truly liberal measure passed during the two years of its existence belongs to the opposition.

But, however widely parties may differ on this question, viewed from a non-partisan stand-point the late House of Commons may in more than one sense be called a remarkable body. Who, for instance, would have anticipated at its birth the manner of its demise? Fate, party exigency, and political chicane conspired to render Lord Palmerston's last legislative offspring a nondescript monster. Indeed, there is a keen irony—a melancholy *memento mori* of human hopes, intentions, and aims—in the history of this body which attained last summer at once its third session and its end. Elected under the auspices of Lord Palmerston, behind the *aegis* of whose personal popularity both the Tories and the Whigs of those days took shelter, and against which few Radicals of the Cobden-Bright school then ventured openly to murmur, its mission had truly been "to let things alone." This *quieta non movere* policy, which used to be the favorite maxim of Lord Melbourne, was inherited by his son-in-law and political associate, and as it happened perfectly to suit the hopes and fears of the ruling classes, it became the basis of twenty years' Palmerstonian dictatorship. The great majority of the Commons which assembled for the first time at St. Stephen's in the beginning of 1866 were determined "to let things alone." Anxious to indulge this resolution in comfort, they would have been content to support Palmerston with the greatest unanimity. But *l'homme propose, Dieu dispose*. The same Parliament which had been chosen to do nothing was forced to display in the course of its existence a truly revolutionary activity, which ended in an indiscriminate fight more bitter and personal than any yet seen in a British legislature during the present century. Lord Palmerston had no sooner paid the debt of nature than the do-nothing policy, of which he had been the principal prop, broke down. During the first and a part of the second session it still used to be considered proper to stigmatize every demand for popular reform as an idle, insignificant, and even preposterous whim. When the Russell-Gladstone ministry ventured to introduce its moderate reform bill, this hostility to all change and innovation culminated in an open revolt. The speeches of Lowe, wherein every species of reform was denounced and ridiculed, were enthusiastically applauded by the Commons, the Liberal ministry was defeated, and the Derby-Disraeli substituted for the avowed purpose of damming the "democratic tide," and to remove the question of Parliamentary reform from the political arena. John Bright at that time honestly stated that there were not twelve genuine reformers in the whole House. Yet, extraordinary as it may seem, at the succeeding session the Commons were all for reform, and the immediate result of this wonderful conversion was an ultra democratic bill, which proposed a revolution in the representative system more radical than any thought of even in 1832. But, though a political miracle in appearance, it was nevertheless brought about by very human agencies—so human and commonplace that the public is hardly disposed to feel grateful to the old Parliament for the boon which it certainly conferred on the nation. At any rate, the very Commons that were to do nothing did, in fact, a great deal, and accomplished in an exceedingly brief space important constitutional changes for which a whole generation had battled in

vain. Even in their last hours they laid the corner-stone for another great reform which is the first step toward a real union between Great Britain and Ireland, and which promises to usher in a new era in the religious equality and tolerance of the whole empire. Still nobody appeared to feel grateful. On the contrary, all seemed only eager to get rid of this Parliament and to rejoice in its dissolution. The reformers are glad that a House which has given them the reform bill and the household franchise should have ceased to exist. The friends of Ireland exult that a House was dissolved which endorsed the Gladstone resolutions and showed a desire to do justice to that country. Even the enemies of Parliamentary corruption do not feel grateful to a House that passed the first respectable anti-bribery law. The reason for these paradoxes lies near at hand. No Parliament has ever achieved greater things in a pettier spirit—conceded more important principles from more trifling motives. It yielded to the demands of justice, but it never intended to be just.

Yet, as from the old Parliament much was got when little was expected, so from the new Parliament, from which almost everything is hoped for, nothing may be forthcoming. The British people—and their representatives reflect the trait with anxious fidelity—are exceedingly cautious, and very prone to reaction when suspecting they may have been hurried too fast or too far. The age, as we often have occasion to say, is one of paradox, and it will not be surprising in an epoch when Tory ministers pass Liberal measures to see a Liberal ministry evince tendencies that are decidedly conservative.

DE MORTUIS.

A MAN passed away just now in the metropolis whose death has been followed by extended public commemoration, by wide and genuine sorrow,—and by not a little whispered detraction. The latter has been of that subtle and underhand kind with which cautious hypocrites, willing to wound and yet afraid to strike, often seek to revenge themselves upon more generous and reckless natures for enjoying a popularity and affection that the cold and selfish always envy without ever being able to rival. The deceased was a great lawyer, a man of fascinating social qualities, of rare magnanimity, of careless and even profuse liberality. To these virtues he joined some faults—faults, however, that, if ever such inclination existed, chiefly leaned to virtue's side. He was, at least, no hypocrite. He did not pretend to be better than he was. He did not try to amass credit with the world for chivalry and nobleness of character while secretly practising hard selfishness and sordid cruelty. Perhaps he was his own worst enemy; which is one of the conventional ways of saying that a high-spirited and free-handed man is not sedulous enough about building up a false reputation or self-considerate enough about providing for the future. Such as he was he is gone. A Judge more immaculate, more charitable, and more clear-sighted than any here will decide his cause; and the troubles, the temptations, and the sufferings of his earthly trial are over for ever.

Many eulogiums have been pronounced over the inanimate clay of the noble gentleman who has thus passed from among us; and of these no doubt the greater part have been earnest, appreciative, and tender. There has been, however, running through some of the discourses that have attracted most attention on this melancholy occasion a tone which has suggested this article, since it has afforded opportunity for stigmatizing a not uncommon species of social hypocrisy, and for rebuking a few speakers whose conspicuous position does not make their display of such hypocrisy the less offensive. There is a certain class of men in the community, to speak plainly, who, if they do not get drunk, consort with strange women, play against faro-banks, or indulge in similar flagrant vices, imagine that they are thereby placed at a height of immeasurable moral superiority above their frailest brothers, who may have more cerebellum and less self-considerateness than themselves. Such men may be flintier than Shylock in their bargains, may cheat the widow and the orphan whenever they can do it with safety, may lead lives of habitual simulation, and receive the homage of the community for qualities they know themselves to have pretended to, not to possess; and yet they can rise and prate over the clay of a far nobler and better, if more openly erring, brother in Pecksniffian dilutes of sorrow, faint praise, and subtle detraction, in periods every one of which echoes with "I am holier than thou!" Now, no one has hitherto thought proper to unveil this hollow pretence, or to express a just contempt for the starchy, the white-livered, and the pharisaical egotism that has inspired it. And yet if a genuine and substantial nobleness of life is to be held up as a proper model, is ever to have its fitting euthanasia, this sort of hypocritical cant should not go unrebuted. Not to be misunderstood, we mean by such nobleness that which makes a character large, charitable, chivalrous, and self-forgetful, despite small faults or vices which, deplorable as they may be, do not destroy the scope and meaning of a man's life, or impair as a whole the beauty of the picture he leaves in the world's gallery; and we say that when narrow souled, artfully rapacious, cold-blooded individuals who have plenty of brains and no passions, whose unscrupulousness stops at nothing save danger to themselves, and whose market has been made by cajoling the world into a belief that they are high-minded, when in truth they are most sordid, and that they care nothing for self, when self is the very god of their idolatry—when such things as this can be, we say it is high time for the press to set up a pillory and gibbet a few ill-got reputations among the living for the sake of fair play to the reputations of the dead.

We had no personal acquaintance with the open-handed and open-hearted, the brilliant and genial man who is gone; but we have read with some indignation the sly inuendoes, the self-appreciative comparisons, the damning with faint praise, the covert allusions to injurious mysteries, with which the funeral speeches of some of his mourners were so freely garnished, and have thought the generous speakers might have characteristic reason for rejoicing that death enabled them to shoot their sidelong poisoned arrows without fear of being called to account. And yet although, as before said, we never knew the deceased, we fancy we know enough of his character to believe that were the meanest of his detractors to change places with him, the dead lawyer could not find it in his heart to say a single unkind word over his enemy's grave.

CHINESE IMMIGRATION.

THE influx of the inhabitants of the Flowery Kingdom upon our Pacific shores demands more than the passing allusion we gave it in a recent issue. It bids fair to solve one of the most important and difficult economic problems of the day—the supply of cheap labor—and may possibly ere long lead to some modification of social and political rules. That a wave of immigration, which may become a flood, is sweeping over the Northern Pacific from the eastern coasts of China, is undeniable. Not a steamer arrives at San Francisco from Shanghai but is crowded with passengers; and so numerous have they already become on the western slopes of the Rocky Mountains, that not long ago it was facetiously reported the Chinese were about to send out missionaries to convert the Christians. Let us then take a brief glance at the probable extent and influence of this new invasion. For thirty centuries China has been as much isolated from the rest of the world as if she were in another planet, and it is only within the present century her self-ostracism has been broken through by modern civilization; yet even now it is far from being true to assert that the empire is completely thrown open to foreign trade and influence. The area of the whole country is probably double that of the United States, and lies in the main about ten degrees farther south than our own land, being diversified by vast rivers, plains, mountains, and lakes, and possessing a climate even more subject to the extremes of heat and cold than the North American continent. Everywhere the country is densely peopled, and it has been estimated, with great amount of probability, that China contains a larger population than Europe and America put together, and certainly one-third, if not one-half, of the total population of the globe. A score or more of large cities number their citizens by millions; inferior towns often contain from five to eight hundred thousand people, while the plains, the rivers, the canals, and hillsides are all crowded with laborers. Here, then, is material to people a dozen kingdoms—an inexhaustible store-house of labor to meet every conceivable need. The seventy or eighty thousand now in California and territories adjoining are but as the drop of a bucket compared with the teeming masses at home, or the numbers that might come over if the inducements were only sufficiently attractive. And these are not semi-barbarians. In many respects they are whimsically singular and their habits and notions directly opposed to ours; but no people in the world are more frugal or industrious. The country is cultivated like a garden and the rivers fished as diligently as they till the soil. They have their religion, their written and spoken languages, a literature in many respects rich and remarkable, and considerable mechanical skill. In some branches of industry, as the manufacture of porcelain, intricate carvings, and the goldsmith's craft, they are perhaps unrivaled. In disposition they are peaceable and docile, and make, it is said, the best nurses and servants in the world, cooking, washing, ironing, and sewing with skill and dexterity. As mechanics they do not possess much inventiveness, but are perfect imitators, doing anything they have once been shown, and under American direction would make invaluable factory hands. Their needs are small, their habits frugal, and they can thrive upon less wages than anybody else. Clearly, then, their immigration here should be encouraged. They possess qualities for which we can find abundant scope. We need them on our gardens and farms; in the workshop and the factory; we shall be glad of them as waiters and servants, as barbers, tailors, and small tradesmen. Under our training they would soon excel in all these departments, and prove excellent substitutes for the overflowing refuse of European cities with which we are now obliged to content ourselves.

To accomplish these desirable ends it only remains that we treat the Chinese with common justice and humanity; they must be protected in their labors, religion, and social customs, so long as they yield obedience to our laws, and be guaranteed the ordinary privileges of American citizenship. Then the tens of thousands will expand into hundreds, and a Chinaman be no greater rarity in any Eastern city than in San Francisco. As yet we have not done this. The Chinese have been subjected to all sorts of plunder and extortion, driven away from any rich mines they may have discovered, robbed, maltreated, and even murdered without any legal redress. This extract from a newspaper of to-day will show the way we treat them:

"In some parts of San Francisco a Chinaman cannot appear upon the streets without being pelted with stones, and there are men who think they do civilization a service by knocking down an Asiatic, and there is no redress for the abused. Last week a Chinaman passing along the street was put upon by a fellow who knocked him down, rolled him over in the dirt, while an admiring lot of whiskey-drinkers enjoyed the sport. The

Chinaman got up, brushed his clothes, turned to the group, and said in good English, 'You call yourselves good Christians, and went on his way.'

The Supreme Court of California ruled some years ago that a Chinese was an Indian, and as such could not testify; and a case has just occurred where a negro robbed a Chinese, and the court decided that, by the thirteenth amendment, the defendant being now legally a white man, the plaintiff had no redress except on the testimony of white witnesses, which, it is needless to say, were not forthcoming. Of course the thousands of Chinese yearly returning to their own land carry back the tale of their oppression, and thus check to some extent the incoming stream. Yet despite these drawbacks, our fertile unoccupied lands, our rich mines, and the great demand and consequent high prices of labor on the Pacific coast, yearly attract large numbers of these singular people; and we have only to treat them fairly and provide them with facilities for crossing to insure an immense accession to their ranks. We entertain no fear of their over-crowding us; there is room and to spare. Their presence will effect quite a revolution in various departments of labor; all our domestic industries will be quickened, we shall be able to compete with European manufacturers without the interposition of a high protective tariff, and both our home and foreign trade will receive fresh development. For a generation or two they may retain their national characteristics, but our wonderful assimilative power will not fail in time thoroughly to amalgamate the heterogeneous mass.

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS.

THE accession of Gen. Grant to the Presidency holds out some hope that a test of qualification will be stringently applied to candidates for diplomatic posts. We understand that Gen. Grant is reluctant to recall those ministers who possess incontestable qualifications for the discharge of their functions. For instance, Mr. Marsh at Florence, and Mr. Morris at Constantinople, are admirable linguists and diplomats of tried experience. To displace such officials, simply because they have held their posts for a number of years and somebody else wishes to secure them, would be the height of folly. A certain Senator is reported to aspire to diplomatic honors, who is remarkable only for his gift of the gab as a stump speaker and for the jolliness of his disposition, but who has no knowledge of foreign languages and politics, and who is destitute of all those other qualities which are essential in a diplomatic representative of the government. Should such a person be nominated to a foreign mission and the Senate confirm him from an ill-judged sense of personal kindness toward a colleague, this would give to the country an indisputable evidence of the connivance of the Senate in imposing unqualified persons upon the foreign service of the United States. Nothing has proved more fatal to the public service than this reckless disposition in confirming Senators and Congressmen to diplomatic posts, on the simple ground that they have been members of the Senate or of the House, and because to reject them would be derogatory to the *esprit de corps* of these legislative bodies. We all know that persons are promoted to legislative honors, particularly from some of the infant states of the far West, to whom they would hardly have been accorded in the older states. An obscure or hack politician of New York or Chicago would not find it difficult to become a shining light in the budding communities of remote territories, upon the principle that the one-eyed is king among the blind. Suppose that after a brief term of legislative service the ambition of the adventurous incumbent should incite him to transfer the effulgence of his genius from the arena of the Senate or the House to the courts of emperors or kings or the divans of sultans, is this a reason why the President or the Senate should gratify his craving? Might he not be contented with having risen from the stump to the forum, and is it absolutely necessary for the salvation of the American people that he should also aspire to the glories of a Talleyrand or a Metternich? Far be it from us to disparage any young state, however new and small, or any young territory, however uncouth and incongruous. We are still more disinclined to contest the possibility that there may be something in the inherent qualities of new states—let us say Kansas, or Nevada, or Nebraska—that exerts a salutary influence upon the development of diplomatic faculties, and particularly upon that of the gift of tongues. But surely if it should appear that the candidates from these or other states, whoever they may be and however exalted may be their position in other spheres, have failed, for some reason or other, to participate in the diplomatic and linguistic accomplishments which hypothetically and as a matter of courtesy we are pleased to attribute to the localities whence they sprang upon the legislative arena, they must not complain if even their own colleagues shall decide not to withdraw them from a forum which they adorn, and decline to select them for missions for which they are unfit. There are very few foreign missions in the gift of the government, and these should be reserved for the most accomplished linguists and diplomats of the country. We trust that the policy of the new administration will be not to displace such men whenever we have the good fortune to secure their services, but to exercise extreme caution and discrimination wherever vacancies are to be filled, so that we may again feel as proud of our foreign ministers as we had reason to be in the early days of the republic, when we were represented abroad by men like Franklin and Jay and Madison, whose high character and attainments perhaps more than almost anything else caused us to be respected by foreign nations.

NEW INDIANA.

THE recent application of the Choctaw Nation through its chief, significantly named Wright, to be admitted as one of the states of the Union opens a wide field of novel and curious speculation. It is difficult to see how Congress, pledged as it is to a most progressive liberality, can deny so reasonable a request, or longer refuse to the very indigens of the soil those rights and privileges of citizenship which are so freely, and soon to be so universally, extended to the intelligent African emigrant. That unjust and cruel prejudice of skin and race under which our estimable colored brethren have so long suffered was never so violent with regard to the noble red man, from whom, indeed, many of our first families have been proud to boast their long descent. In other respects the noble red man is neither intellectually nor morally the inferior of the noble black man, unlike whom he has never been debased and embruted by ages of slavery and submission. A playful propensity to scalp his pale face brother, a trifling moral confusion regarding the rights of property, a too pronounced affection for firewater—these are only the simple foibles of the savage that would speedily turn to virtues in the arena of civilized and Christian politics. It is fair, then, to presume that with only the unavoidable legislative delay the just demand of the Choctaw nation will be acceded to, and another star added to that glittering constellation which already shines peerless in the firmament of patriotic eloquence.

This premised, there is opened at once upon the reflecting mind an endless vista of teasing conjecture. In the first place, there is the christening of the infant commonwealth. What is it to be called and how? Will a Congressional committee baptize it, or will it be proposed as a patriotic conundrum to the ingenuity of the country? If the latter, we modestly offer our mite to solve the difficulty, and propose *New Indiana*. This is neat, sonorous, and suggestive, and if old Indiana doesn't like it, why Congress has only to change her name too, and call her, for example, Hoosieria (pr. *Hoozheerya*) or Egypt. Of course this is only put forward as the merest suggestion, by which, we trust, Congress will not consider itself bound—at least without fully weighing the claims of other appellations, of which nearly a score occur to us at this moment. Choctavia, for instance, might be better still. Prairiana is not to be despised. Aboriginia is at once mellifluous and significant. Andijohnsonia would be a graceful compliment to the retiring President. Wampumia, Wigwamia, Kalumetta, are all titles whose claims it is needless to set forth. But this, after all, is a minor affair; doubtless the Choctaw nation resembles the rose sufficiently to be careless of its statal name. Matter for graver speculation is the influence to be exerted on Congress by the introduction of this new element into its deliberations. We cannot but think this influence will be a good one. Regarded in its most superficial aspect, it cannot be doubted that the picturesque Indian blanket will agreeably diversify the sombre and swallow-tailed gloom of our funeral full dress, while its flowing drapery must recall something of the grace and dignity of the Roman toga. For a time, indeed, there may be difficulty in persuading honorable senators and representatives that squatting on their haunches or smoking the calumet are not ceremonies absolutely essential to elicit the height of deliberative wisdom; and especially in warm weather the decorum of the galleries may be often shocked by sudden returns of some overheated member to that unadorned but comfortable simplicity of attire which makes the rude charm of his native wigwam. But these eccentricities will be pruned away in time. Probably a more troublesome peculiarity will come from the sensitiveness of the noble red man, and his inability to comprehend those vivacious Pickwickianisms wherewith honorable members are wont to enliven debate. An interruption might for the first few months be construed as offering legitimate occasion for the introduction of the scalping-knife, and a call to order from the chair resented in a way that would materially cool the strife for the Speakership. The presence of a Choctaw delegation during the late unpleasantness in Joint Convention might have turned the farce into a tragedy. The outraged dignity of the Senate would probably have been vindicated at the expense of General Butler's hair, and Mr. Ingersoll's invective summarily cut short by the irresistible logic of the tomahawk. And even after this primitive notion of parliamentary etiquette has been improved by advice and observation into the considerate courtesy and studied gentleness of address which has ever marked Congressional debates, it may still be a work of time to dissuade the Choctaw gentleman from responding to the call of the ayes and noes with his ancestral "Wagh!" or from taxing the intelligence of reporters and the typographical resources of the *Globe* by discussing the tariff in his native tongue. Though perhaps, on the whole, this last peculiarity ought rather to be encouraged; the more unintelligible our rulers are the longer we can respect them. These little oddities once safely overcome, we may be assured that the influence of the new-comer's example will be wholesome in the extreme. His reticence, his terseness, his directness will make him a model of parliamentary eloquence, and commend him to the favor of the Executive, who will certainly rank the Choctaw delegation among his most favored advisers. His gravity too, his silence's stern rebuke of Mr. Butler's smartness, or Mr. Mullin's buffoonery, or Mr. Wade's *doubles entendres*, will no doubt exert a most salutary effect, and day by day make Congress seem less like a parliament of monkeys, and more like an assemblage of rational human beings. The war-whoop, too, will be found a most effectual mode of attracting the attention of the chair, and the toma-

hawk in the hands of a resolute Speaker might enforce the order which the gavel is sometimes unable to command. And then what a poetical variety would the dull records of legislation gain from the very names of the new members! With what fresher brilliancy would not Mr. Sumner's rhetoric glow in answer to Mr. Rolling Thunder's argument on reconstruction; what sunshine of feminine smiles would pour from the gallery every time that Mr. Buffalo-Who-Walks-On-The-Clouds opened his eloquent lips! And then what piquancy must their unused presence and novel ways lend to Washington society! What scope they will give to the exercise of feminine curiosity; what artless inquisition of pretty lips concerning their domestic relations will be met with what refreshing, though perhaps embarrassing, frankness of reply! How they will be lionized and courted! What balm their presence will bring to despairing maidens and dejected mothers, and how the white squaw market will rise under the influence of their patriarchal notions of marriage!

We have scarcely crossed the threshold of possible speculation when our space warns us to close. If time permitted, there are numberless interesting questions that we should ask the reader's aid in solving. For instance, how the Choctaw statesman will shine in other spheres of national duty—in the cabinet, in the diplomatic service, in the lobby. Will he come to Washington in hereditary fashion, attended by his squaws and his papooses, with his dogs dragging the poles of the lodge that is to be set up in the vacant grounds of the Capitol? or will he take rooms at Willard's in ordinary fashion and have dog-feasts in his private parlor? Of course that he will come attired in his war-paint, if he reads the papers, there can be little doubt. But will he carry any other of his national peculiarities into his legislation? Will he demand that our school histories shall be altered to do tardy justice to his abused and vilified race? will he require that Mr. Longfellow shall be made perpetual head of the Indian Bureau? will he insist on amending the Constitution to recognize the existence of Mitchi Manitou, the Great Spirit? These are only a few of the problems which the honorable Choctaw chief's application has suggested to us, and which cause us to await with the utmost anxiety the action of Congress in the premises.

ONE UNIFORM STANDARD TIME.

NOTHING, perhaps, is so perplexing to an inexperienced traveller—especially if he is an Englishman—crossing our continent as the successive variations in local time. However excellent his favorite repeater may be, if he depends upon it, as he is sure to do until its erratic indications induce him to suspect that the jolting of the cars must have disarranged its delicate machinery, he is certain to be led into numberless annoying situations. Now he hurries pell mell through his business or regretfully postpones or curtails a visit to some celebrated locality and rushes breathless to the depot, to be disgusted to find that his train does not start for another half hour; again, he pursues his leisurely way or prolongs the friendly chat and arrives complacently at the country station, to learn that the cars passed through fifteen minutes ago and another train is not due under a couple of hours. In short, going east or west he invariably finds his watch fast or slow, but never by any fortunate coincidence correct till he reaches home again. A traveller from Boston arriving in New York finds his pocket indicator twelve minutes fast; at Washington it will be twenty-four minutes ahead, at Buffalo thirty-two minutes, at Cincinnati fifty-four, at Chicago a trifle over an hour, at Omaha an hour and forty minutes, at Salt Lake City two hours and forty minutes, and at San Francisco nearly three hours and a half faster than when he started. Returning by the same route, all this is reversed; his watch continually loses till, on again reaching Boston, its indications are once more correct.

These variations of local time in journeying west or east (they do not occur in travelling due north or south) are caused, as most people are aware, by the diurnal revolution of our little planet upon its axis, which is accomplished once every twenty-four hours. As its whole circumference is divided into three hundred and sixty degrees by imaginary lines running north and south, a simple calculation shows us that there must be a difference of four minutes of time between any two consecutive meridians, as these lines are called, from the fact that when any one of them comes directly opposite the sun—which occurs when the luminary is due south of it—it is noon or midday (meridies) at all places through which it passes. As time travels from east to west, a watch will gain when going in the latter direction and lose in the former unless one uniform time be maintained throughout the whole country. In Great Britain, where the extent of territory is small and the contour of the island is chiefly north and south, the difference between the extremes of local time does not amount to thirty minutes. Very little difficulty has been experienced there in adopting Greenwich time as a standard throughout the country, for, though the national observatory is on the eastern side of the island, the maximum variation does not practically produce any inconvenience. The principal towns there receive standard time daily by telegraph, and at the chief seaports "time balls" are dropped by electric currents from the Greenwich observatory at a certain stated hour daily for the benefit of seafaring captains in regulating their chronometers. All public clocks, too, are set, and railroad trains run, by the same standard time; hence a good watch will be equally correct at Liverpool and London, at Penzance and Lowestoft.

In following this excellent precedent here the magnitude of our coun-

try, extending through so many degrees of longitude, offers some peculiar difficulties, and until the telegraph wire united the two oceans was well-nigh impossible. Leaving Alaska altogether in the cold and cutting off the north-eastern spur of New England, the extreme difference in time between the Atlantic and Pacific, between Boston and San Francisco, is three hours and twenty-four minutes. Supposing Washington time to be adopted as the standard, Boston would be twenty-four minutes behindhand, while the Golden City would be just three hours too fast—a difference which would make some rather curious transformations. For instance, how great would be our astonishment to hear that the sun in his old age was acting at San Francisco the part of a fast youth, keeping late hours of a winter evening and not rising before 11 A. M. in the morning. But though experience would soon accustom people to these eccentricities, there is really no need of any such great deviation from local time anywhere on the American continent. Some central meridian might be chosen by which the difference would be minimized; and no meridian appears more suitable than the 96th west from Greenwich (or the 19th west from Washington), passing through the rising city of Omaha and running parallel almost with the Mississippi at no great distance from the chief cities of the West and South. If this line were fixed upon, the greatest variation would not exceed an hour and forty minutes on our extreme eastern and western borders—a difference practically unnoticeable—while in three-fourths of the Union the divergence would be considerably less. This would abolish one, at least, of the chronic perplexities of railway travelling, and give us one uniform standard time throughout the Union; while if the same meridian were also adopted on all our maps and charts as the starting point for reckoning longitude the advantages would be still more obvious.

Another innovation in measuring time which we shall adopt in time is the astronomical fashion of counting the hours consecutively from one to twenty-four, instead of the ordinary method of dividing the day into two portions of twelve hours each. This would avoid the circumlocutory phrases entailed by the present system, and abolish the necessity for chronicling an event as occurring at 8 A. M., or 2 o'clock in the morning, or 2 in the afternoon, 12 o'clock noon, or 12 o'clock at night. It would give us definiteness and conciseness, and though a little awkward at first, as most innovations are, might be adopted with or without uniform time. But our indications of the flight of time will not be perfect until all public clocks in the Union—and, indeed, all private clocks too—are made to go isochronally. This is even now thoroughly feasible. By means of electricity one central time-piece can be made to regulate any number of others, no matter at what distance, which may be connected with it. It is simply a question of detail, of so much battery power and so many miles of wire. In short, electricity is yet a mere infant. What it has done is nothing to what it will do; and the day is not very distant when there shall be one uniform time throughout the Union, and the swift, subtle fluid will perform the important function of universal time-regulator.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.

FIRST ARTICLE.

STRIKINGLY at variance with the popular conviction that, politically, all American citizens are equal and exert an equal voice in the direction of government, is the whole system of the Presidential election—the most important occasion, at least the most conspicuous and highly prized, which the voter has of exercising his privileges. To the average American the information would come with the novelty of a revelation that, in the choice of a President, the citizens of no two states are on an equal footing,—that the variations are such that in determining the election each voter in Delaware or Nevada enjoys four times the influence entrusted to a citizen of Pennsylvania or New York, or that the weight of one vote in Nebraska or Rhode Island can only be overcome by that of six in Illinois or Michigan. Nor is this the most remarkable of the anomalies of its class. A study of the returns of the election for the new presidency shows, among other things, that a constituency of nearly 850,000 was outweighed by less than 300,000 voters more fortunately disposed, the former casting but 33 electoral votes against the 37 directed by the latter,—that of the 297 electoral votes determined by popular suffrage (the 3 of Florida being ordered by the vote of the legislature, not of the people) a majority was directed by a little over 2,000,000 voters, and only a minority left to the nearly 4,000,000 remaining,—or that, under the present electoral system (if one can conceive of the group of states in the former of the last categories being carried throughout by as small majorities as some of them in fact were, while those in the latter should vote nearly unanimously), it is possible for state majorities aggregately amounting to 11,000 to command the decision of the Electoral Colleges in defiance of popular majorities of 3,500,000 in the remaining states; or, indeed, to state the example in its extreme form, a majority of but 22 popular votes might in this manner outvote similar majorities of more than 3,700,000. How such anomalies become possible under a system of government designed to attain theoretical perfection, it is the purpose of this article to show. As a preliminary step an outline of the conduct of a presidential election is necessary.

The Constitution makes no provision for any expression of the popular will with regard to the presidency.

"Each State," it says, "shall appoint, in such manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress."

It has long been the nearly uniform practice, however—until the war, with the exception of South Carolina, now with the exception only of Florida—to appoint these Electoral Colleges by popular vote. The electors once appointed, in whatever manner, the Constitution originally went on to provide that they should

"meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballot for two Persons, of whom one at least shall not be an Inhabitant of the same State with themselves."

These votes were then to be collected in the hands of the President of the Senate, by whom they were to be opened and counted in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, whereupon it was further provided that

"The Person having the greatest Number of votes shall be the President, if such Number be a Majority of the whole Number of Electors appointed. In every case, after the Choice of the President, the Person having the greatest Number of Votes of the Electors shall be the Vice-President."

For three elections this plan worked satisfactorily, but the result of the fourth showed the necessity of a change. In the presidential canvass of 1800 the efficient support rendered to Mr. Jefferson by Aaron Burr—who was the means of carrying New York, and thereby the country, for the Republicans—induced that party to support him for the vice-presidency. Inadvertently, however, all the Republican electors cast their votes for Burr, who thus received the same number as Mr. Jefferson,—73 votes being cast for each, while 70 constituted a majority.* Burr, taking advantage of the accident, threw himself into the arms of the Federalists, and, in the contest which ensued in the House, labored for his own election over the candidate of his party, whom he had himself supported. After thirty-six ballottings, by states, in the House, lasting nearly a week, Jefferson received the votes of a majority of the states and was declared President; while Burr, his political reputation ruined by his unsuccessful treachery, became Vice-President. Before another election the repetition of this mischance was provided against by a constitutional amendment which provided that the Electors should

"vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seal of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate."

Other changes in the manner of elections have at various times been found necessary. Thus, the states having been in the practice of holding their presidential elections on different days—a method of insuring fraudulent voting—Congress, in 1845, "established a uniform time" for holding them, on "the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November." So, previously, to prevent the loss or delay of any of the Electors' certificates, it was provided that their lists, duly signed and certified, should be made out in triplicate, and that one copy of these should be sent by special messengers to the President of the Senate, another by mail to the same officer, and the third deposited with the United States judges of the districts in which the electors meet. But except the amendment, whose need was demonstrated by Burr's trickery, all emendations have been in the nature of additional regulation of details, and no change has been made in the essential scheme of the election.

In the plan, therefore, which has obtained from the earliest times, there has existed the same recognition of states rather than of populations,—the same disposition to equalize the small states with the great ones,—which placed all the states, little and great, on an absolutely equal footing in the Senate. Still more manifestly does this intention appear in the provision—to which recourse has twice been necessary—for the appointment of a President in the event of the Electors failing to make a choice, in which case the states really become the electoral units. The directions of the Constitution in this matter are now as follows, the amended article differing from that it supersedes only so far as is necessary to adapt it to the distinction introduced between candidates for the presidency and those for the vice-presidency.

"The person having the greatest number of votes for President shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by states, the representative from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the States, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice."

The anomalies referred to as liable to occur in any presidential election have a two-fold source:

I. In the Constitutional provision for the equal representation in the Senate of all the states, regardless of their population.

II. In the custom, originating in no legal provision, of casting the entire Electoral Vote of each state, in mass, for the party having the majority in the state.

I. The clause in the Constitution which gives to the small states a preponderance in the Electoral Colleges entirely disproportionate to their popular vote is that, already quoted, which prescribes that the number of Electors shall be "equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress." The Representatives being appointed on the basis of population, the adoption of their number as that of the state Electors would have caused the Electoral vote—theoretically, and toward the commencement of each decade, while the census and apportionment were recent, actually—to reflect the popular vote. How effectually the Senatorial votes—the votes for "Electors at large," as they are termed on the electoral tickets—come in as a disturbing element to prevent any such correspondence, may be gathered from these groupings of the popular votes of the small and of the large states in the last election, together with their Electoral votes as actually cast, and the same votes reduced as they would be by the abrogation of the Senatorial Electors. The table, it should be understood, is constructed without reference to the political complexion of the states, merely to afford a comparison of the actual and of the equitable voice of different parts of the community in the government.

	NUMBER OF POPULAR VOTES.	ELLECTORAL VOTES.— At Cast. Equitably.
Tennessee,	81,905	11 9
Arkansas,	57,000	5 3
West Virginia,	49,331	5 3
Oregon,	21,900	3 1
Rhode Island,	19,541	4 2
Delaware,	18,603	3 1
Nevada,	18,000	3 1
Nebraska,	15,168	3 1
	282,108	37 21

* The Federalists, in this election, avoided the error of their opponents. Mr. Pinckney was their candidate for the vice-presidency under Mr. Adams; accordingly, while Mr. Adams received the entire anti-Jefferson vote, 65, Mr. Pinckney had but 64, Rhode Island casting 1 of her 4 votes for John Jay.

	NUMBER OF POPULAR VOTES.	ELECTORAL VOTES—	
		As Cast.	Equitably.
Massachusetts,	195,885	35	13
New Jersey,	163,122	7	5
Georgia,	159,956	9	7
Kentucky,	155,455	11	9
Alabama,	148,452	8	6
Missouri,	146,000	11	9
Louisiana,	113,488	8	6
Maine,	112,822	7	5
South Carolina,	107,538	6	4
Connecticut,	98,241	6	4
Maryland,	92,795	7	5
Minnesota,	71,614	4	2
New Hampshire,	69,415	5	3
Vermont,	56,212	5	3
Kansas,	45,068	3	1
	2,018,171	149	103
3. New York,	849,766	33	31
	(849,766)	33	31
Pennsylvania,	655,662	26	24
Ohio,	515,823	21	19
Illinois,	449,436	16	14
Indiana,	343,532	13	11
Michigan,	225,619	8	6
Iowa,	194,430	8	6
Wisconsin,	193,569	8	6
North Carolina,	180,316	10	8
California,	108,670	5	3
	3,719,835	148	128

Here the power of the Senatorial votes is very manifest. The addition of two of them to the Electoral College of each of the eight small states in the first group not only gives to their 282,108 voters an Electoral vote of 37 against the 26, 21, 16, and 13 severally awarded to the vastly more numerous constituencies in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana, but allows their individual voters an almost fourfold influence as compared with those of New York,—placing in the hands of their less than three hundred thousand four more Electoral votes than are cast by nearly eight hundred and fifty thousand in the latter state. When all the states which voted in the election are parcelled among the two lists, the disproportion, though still existing, becomes less pronounced, by reason of the numerous states, in size upon the border line, to which no particular injustice is done. Still, however, the totals show that 2,018,171 voters controlled a majority of the Electoral votes in last year's election,—a minority only being left to voters 1,700,000 more numerous than themselves.

The third columns in the two lists—representing the numbers in the several Electoral Colleges if the Senatorial Electors were omitted—show a majority of Electoral votes for the states casting the larger popular vote. But the ratio between the 128 and 103 thus obtained as the just Electoral votes of these states is by no means that between 3,719,835 and 2,018,171. The just division of the vote is a simple matter of the rule of three, which gives to the two sets of states, respectively, Electoral votes of 150 and 81,—an evidence that, only while the apportionment is new, is the representation in proportion to the constituency. Beside this, to make the election of the President really depend upon the popular will, another change is necessary than the correspondence of the size of the Electoral Colleges to the population of the states.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

STAND-POINT, ETC.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ROUND TABLE:

SIR: I noticed in your issue of January 9 a letter from "J. B." upon the word *stand-point*, condemning it as an exploded heresy, and moralizing upon the "total depravity of human nature" which after such an explosion could still countenance the heresy. Your correspondent informs the world that "Mr. White recently in the *Galaxy*, and Mr. Gould, at greater length, in *Good English*, have thoroughly analyzed and exposed" "the literary abortion." Such language, so unlike that of a man of scholarship or culture, led me to think that perhaps your correspondent did not know very much of etymology after all, and that his pitying contempt might be nothing more than a cloak for sciolism or ignorance. So, being somewhat interested in the fate of the word *stand-point*, I gave "J. B.'s" letter a second reading, and found my suspicions verified. He says:

"The two words *stand* and *point* cannot be grammatically joined together; the first word must be changed to a participle in order to make them legally united. *Standing-point* is English." From this it is evident that "J. B." thinks the former half of the word *standing-point* to be a participle; so also of *turning-point*, *landing-place*, etc. What will he say when it is suggested to him that in each of these compounds the former element is a substantive and not a participle, and that a participle placed before a noun in English, whether to form a compound or not, always qualifies the noun—becomes, in fact, an adjective? *Jumping-jack*, *dancing-girl* are examples of compounds formed of a qualifying participle and a noun, for *dancing-girl* means a girl who dances. *Stumbling-block*, on the contrary, does not mean a block that stumbles, nor does *turning-point* mean a point that turns, or *landing-place* a place that lands. The words mean respectively a block which causes stumbling (*stumbling* is used as a noun i. John 2, 10), a point at which turning [or a turn] takes place, a place for landing [—disembarkation]. On the same analogy is formed the word *standing-point*, which means not a point which stands, but a point where one takes his stand, *standing* being a noun and not a participle. But *stand*, as the phrase "takes his stand" shows, is as good a noun as *standing* and has the additional advantage of not being ambiguous, as the latter is. "J. B." however, evidently thinks that in the word *standing-point*, *stand* must necessarily be part of a verb, inasmuch as he talks about turning it into a participle. Now he must know, for he has read Mr. White's remarks in the *Galaxy*, that *stand-point* is an Anglicized form of the German *Standpunkt*. If he were acquainted with German he would know that in that word the former element, *Stand*, is a noun; were it a verb the word would be *Stehpunkt*, on the analogy of *Drehbank*, *Wohnsimmer*, and so forth. This being so, why, if we may say *play-ground*, *bath-room*, *death-bed*, may we not say *stand-point*? Even supposing the former half were a verb, why might we not admit the compound on the analogy of *go-cart*, *wash-tub*, *thresh-old*, *dye-house*? So much for the form of the word. But "J. B." proceeds:

"*Standing-point* is English: but the difficulty with that is that nobody can be fooled into believing that it means 'point of view.' Hence it cannot replace *stand-point*, which people fool themselves into believing does mean 'point of view.'"

Now, it is well to remark that *point of view* is not an indigenous English expression any more than *stand-point* is. It is simply a verbal translation of the French *point de vue*, and cannot plead analogy in justification of its adoption to the same extent as *stand-point* can. *View-point* or *viewing-point* would be more correct. I am aware that we can say *point of attack*; but that, also, is a translation of the French *point d'attaque*. So far, then, as the origin and form of the expressions *stand-point* and *point of view* are concerned, *stand-point* has a decided advantage. It is also the more convenient expression, and the only thing, therefore, that remains to be decided with regard to it is, whether it gives any intelligible signification. When I say, "Viewed from a scientific stand-point, it is false" (*Vom wissenschaftlichen Standpunkt angesehen, ist es falsch*), what do I mean? Simply, "Viewed from the position occupied by science, it is false." Here *stand-point* has not the meaning of *point of view*; and, indeed, I doubt whether it ever has precisely. There is no other word in the English language that will exactly express the meaning of stand-point, as any one may convince himself by trying to express otherwise the phrase, "The stand-point of philosophy is different from that of science." "The philosophical point of view is different from the scientific" has quite a different signification.

After convincing myself of the inaccuracy of "J. B.'s" remarks on the word *stand-point*, I thought I should like to know what Mr. White had to say about it. Accordingly, I procured a copy of the number of the *Galaxy* containing the article in which his remarks on the word occur. These I found very temperate, and I regretted that I could not agree with him. But when I came to read the rest of his article, I found so many indications of want of profound knowledge and scholarlike accuracy, that I bade my regrets farewell. To give an instance or two. In speaking of the word *telegram*, which he does not seem to know is altogether an incorrect formation, he says:

"If *engrave* (from *en* and *grapho*) gives us rightly *engraver* and *engraving*, *photograph* or *photo-grave* should give us *photographer* and *photographing*, and *telegraph*, *telegrapher* and *telegraphing*."

This would be true if *engrave* did come from *iv* and *γράφω*; but it does not, and only a person profoundly ignorant of English etymology could have supposed that it did. In the first place, the existence of the word *grave* as a verb (see Chaucer, *Troilus and Cresseide*, Book II., Proeme, line 47, "Eke some men *grave* in tre, som in stone wall." *Ibid*, Book III., line 1,468, etc.) and the form of the participle *engraven* might have sufficed to convince Mr. White that the word *engrave* was of Saxon origin. A very common verb in Anglo-Saxon is *grafen* (conj. *grafe*, *grōf*, *grafen*), e.g., Psalm 77, v. 58 [English version 78, 58]:

"Svā hi his yrre oft ƿeāhtan,
þonne hi oferhydig up-ahōfan
and him vohgodu vorhtan and grōfan."

The forms *graue* and *igrauen* occur in Layamon, *graue*, *grauea*, *grauen* (and *graued*) in Middle-English, and *grave*, *graved*, *graven* (and *graved*) in Modern English. It is only in comparatively recent times that the compound *engrave* has replaced the simple verb. It is no doubt true that *grave* is from the same root as *γράφω*, but that is quite a different thing from saying that it is derived from *γράφω*. It is the same as the Mæso-Gothic *graban* (See Ulfila, Luke 6, 48. *Galeiks ist mann timrjandin razn. saei grob jah gadiupida, etc.*), Old Saxon *bigraban*, Old Frankish *greva* (whence modern French *graveur*), Swedish *gräfsa*, *graf*, Danish *grave*, German *graban*, Spanish *grabar*. I hope this is sufficient to show that the word *engrave* is not of Greek origin. But, apart from these considerations, Mr. White ought to have known at what period Greek words began to be transferred directly into English. In the year 1500 there were probably but four men in all England who knew anything of Greek.

Under the head of *ENQUIRE*, *ENCLOSE*, *ENDORSE*, Mr. White says:

"A much respected correspondent urges the condemnation of these words, and the advocacy of their disuse because they are respectively from the Latin *inquirō*, *inclo*, and *in dorsum*, and should, therefore, be written *inquire*, *inclose*, *indorse*. He is in error. They are, to be sure, of Latin origin, but remotely; they came to us directly from the French *enquierer*, *enclosur*, and *endosser*."

There is, no doubt, a verb *endorser*, but who ever heard of such monstrosities as *enquierer* and *enclosur*? Only writers who, in their ignorance of French and of the primary principles of etymology, coin them out of their own brain. The French verbs corresponding to *enquire* and *enclose* are *enquerir* and *enclore*. These are written with various orthographies, it is true, but never as Mr. White writes them. His remark notwithstanding, Chaucer and his contemporaries wrote *enquest*, *enquere*, seldom *enquyre*.

Mr. White very modestly confesses:

"My having in Sanscrit, like Orlando's beard, is a younger brother's revenue—what I glean from the well-worked fields of my elders and betters."

That he might have said as much, or even more, of his English and French, judging them by the particular article under consideration, I think I have shown abundantly. I am almost tempted to leave his Latin unimpeached, to spare him "the most unkindest cut of all;" but I cannot. *Il a perdu son latin*. Under the head of the word *RELIABLE* he says:

"This view of *laughable* seems to be supported by the fact that the counterpart of that adjective, *visible*, is not formed from the verb *video*—to laugh (although, of course, derived from it); but from the noun *risus*—a laugh or laughter."

I should like to ask Mr. White, first, whether he knows that *video* means *I laugh at* as well as *I laugh*; second, whether he does not know that adjectives in *bilis* are sometimes formed from the stem of the supine as well as from that of the present of verbs; third, in what Latin author he ever found the noun *risum* meaning a laugh or laughter; fourth, what *risibilis* means in Latin.

It would be easy to show ignorance of languages on the part of public instructors by many more examples, but I think the above will suffice to make evident the fact that their knowledge is often of the flimsiest kind. There are, unfortunately, in this country a large number of persons who get a reputation for learning simply because they have the presumption to write on learned subjects; their statements pass among the multitude unchallenged because the country lacks a learned class which, by its very presence, might deter sciolists from disgracing themselves by exhibitions of ignorance and presumption. I wait and hope for better things.

Yours very faithfully, O. A.

JANUARY 30, 1869.

[We are of opinion, notwithstanding our learned correspondent's severe criticism, that Mr. White has done much good by his philological labors, and that, despite possible occasional errors, he deserves gratitude and respect therefore. We feel sure, in printing these observations, that he will be the last to

object to them if well taken; and that, otherwise, he will be at no more loss to defend himself than we shall be, if desired, to afford him the opportunity.—ED.
ROUND TABLE.]

ENGLISH FINANCIAL PRECEDENTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ROUND TABLE:

SIR: It is over two thousand years since Solomon wrote that "the thing which hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done, is that which shall be done, and there is no new thing under the sun," and a close examination of the march of events cannot fail to convince an impartial mind that there is sounder truth in this than is generally supposed, or than Americans, particularly, like to believe. If we look back for half a century and carefully note the situation of Great Britain at that time, we shall be struck by its resemblance in many particulars to the position of the United States at the present moment. Great Britain had just emerged from a twenty years' grapple with the First Napoleon, in the prosecution of which she had increased her national debt from twelve hundred millions to over four thousand millions of dollars, her resources had been terribly drained to supply the sinews of war, while her bank circulation was no longer on a specie basis, but considerably depreciated. At this juncture we find the ablest minds of Britain concentrated on such questions as—What causes the depreciation of the currency? How shall we effect a return to specie payments? Is a wholly metallic, a wholly paper, or a mixed currency the best?

The very questions which in this country during the last year the Shermans, Mortons, McCullochs, Butlers, Sumners, and Greeleys have been discussing were argued half a century ago in Great Britain by Thornton, Hardcastle, Graham, Parnell, Tooke, Ricardo, and others; and on a careful comparison of the writings of the political economists of the two epochs it may well be doubted whether, with all our slashing progress in mechanical and physical science, we have made much headway in that of finance.

At the time mentioned "observations," "remarks," "essays," "pamphlets," and "reviews" on the currency question fell in Britain as thick as snow-flakes. Some called for a currency entirely metallic, others were clamorous for a paper currency, while a third class was in favor of a mixed circulation of specie and notes. It would, of course, be difficult, as it is needless, to enter into the arguments adduced by each class for their favorite views. The champions of a mixed currency carried the day, and such has been the circulating medium of Great Britain from that time to this.

As to what caused the depreciation of the currency, by far the ablest writers held that it was the result of the undue expansion which followed the suspension of specie payments by the Bank of England, and in consequence throughout the kingdom. In support of this view, Lord King published a series of tables, a few years after the first suspension in 1797, showing the remarkable correspondence between the variations in the quantity of bank notes and the variations in the price of gold and foreign exchange. Adopting this idea of Lord King's, but taking the whole period of suspension instead of a few years as he did, we have the following table:

Year.	Bank of England Circulation.	Estimated Country Bank Circulation.	Premium on Gold.
1796	£12,000,000		
1802	17,000,000		
1810	22,000,000	£23,800,000	30
1811	23,000,000	21,400,000	24
1812	23,000,000	20,000,000	30
1813	23,500,000	22,500,000	37 to 41
1814	27,000,000	22,700,000	30
1815	26,500,000	19,000,000	18
1816	26,000,000	15,000,000	2½ to 3½
1817	28,500,000	15,300,000	2½
1818	27,500,000	20,500,000	5½
1819	25,500,000	17,300,000	6½
1823	28,000,000	8,700,000	

It is questionable whether these figures establish any very close connection between the volume of currency and the premium on gold. The latter, however, was often much affected by the incidents of war, the balance of trade, and other similar causes.

There was undoubtedly a marked increase in the quantity of currency during the period of suspension over what was in circulation both before and after that period. This could be accounted for in part by the withdrawal of coin from the circulating medium; but this would account for the increase only in part, and beyond a doubt the ablest political economists of the time maintained that the depreciation of the currency was mostly due to its excess.

The amount of country bank circulation cannot be definitely ascertained. The above is the estimate of Mr. Sedgewick, of the Board of Stamps, in 1819. Some able authorities differ widely from him, making a much larger reduction of circulation in 1816, when the premium of gold fell almost to nothing. In 1814, 1815, 1816 nearly 200 country banks failed, and Mr. Lewis Lloyd, of Jones Lloyd & Co., estimated the reduction of country bank paper in 1816 below 1814 at about one-half. It was this reduction of the currency that raised the remainder almost to par.

Even when the volume of currency was largest it often appeared to be inadequate to supply the demands of trade, and for that reason some insisted that it was not excessive in quantity. To this it was answered that the wants of commerce are insatiable. The demand for discounts depends on the profits to be made from the use of money. The applications for loans depend on the desire of merchants to get money either to make increased purchases, to supply funds which have been lost or are slow in coming in, or to enter into new speculations on the failure of the old. These urgent and repeated calls for loans are mistaken by the banks for an indication that the currency is insufficient for the purposes of trade, and a clamor is raised for more currency at a time when it should be diminished. Such was some of the reasoning brought forward in Britain fifty years ago, and it is not altogether inapplicable in this country at the present time.

Considering the number of her population, the as yet comparatively undeveloped condition of her manufactures and trade, the foreign subsidies she had to provide, the constant fears of invasion by which she was agitated, and bearing in mind the fact that as yet there were no railroads, steamships, or telegraphs to give life, elasticity, and buoyancy to commerce, is it not somewhat remarkable that the currency of Britain should at no time have been depreciated much more

than ours is at the present moment? The strain upon her resources was tremendous and long continued, her expenditures averaging annually for fifteen years nearly five hundred millions of dollars, as may be seen from the following table:

EXPENDITURES OF GREAT BRITAIN.						
1806	£52,377,000	1814				£137,348,000
1807	82,820,000	1815				127,364,000
1808	80,802,000	1816				99,593,000
1809	95,604,000	1817				73,063,000
1810	94,566,000	1818				73,224,000
1811	102,340,000	1819				73,697,000
1812	114,552,000	1820				74,986,000
1813	131,825,000					

We have suggested in the foregoing a few points in the history of Great Britain at a time when her circumstances resembled somewhat closely those of the United States at the present moment. There are others as instructive that might be named, but these for the present will suffice. There is "nothing new under the sun," and although our "exceptional position" and "boundless resources" and so forth may be cited in refutation of Solomon, it is the part of wisdom not to discount too liberally his lack of knowledge of modern political economy or of the unprecedented advantages of this herculean republic.

I am, sir, yours respectfully, J. J.

MILWAUKEE, Feb. 18, 1869.

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK.

HOME AFFAIRS.

IN the Senate, on the 17th, Mr. Sumner called up the bill for a pension for Mrs. Lincoln, which evoked a long and interesting debate. Senator Davis, of Kentucky, could not vote for it on the ground that it was a mischievous innovation. Mr. J. Conness, of California, moved to substitute "allowance" for "pension," which Senator Howard, of Michigan, objected to. Senator Morton, of Indiana, thought if they were to refuse this moderate provision it would furnish a fresh illustration of the adage that republics are ungrateful; but Mr. Tipton, of Nebraska, regarded this statement as a little too highly colored. Mr. Yates, of Illinois, and Mr. Paterson, of New Hampshire, offered several interesting revelations, and the time having expired for the discussion, the subject went over. The Tenure-of-Office bill, the River and Harbor Appropriation bill, and the Indian Appropriation bill have been under debate. An amendment to the bill on the franking privilege was adopted abolishing it altogether after July 1. Various reports and bills were presented, and Mr. Stewart, from the Committee on Pacific Railroads, made an interesting report condemning the report of the minority and favoring the granting of aid to the companies.—In the House the Internal Revenue bill was discussed, considerably modified in committee of the whole, and finally passed. The Committee on Elections reported adversely to the claims of the colored representative from Louisiana to a seat in the House. The National Banking bill was recommitted to the Banking Committee for amendment, and being reported back passed the House. On the Army Appropriation bill the amendments of Messrs. Dodge and Butler reducing the forces were agreed to, and the bill reported to the House. Mr. Blaine's amendment to reduce the army to twenty-five regiments of infantry, five of cavalry, and five of artillery, and other reductions of special appropriations, were agreed to, and the bill passed. Mr. Hooper's bill prohibiting any further increase of the public debt was called up and an amendment added making all sales of gold public and after due notice. The Post-office appropriation bill passed the House with some amendments. The Tenure-of-Office bill has been thrown over.

Dr. Schoeppe, of Carlisle, Pa., has been arrested on a charge of poisoning a deceased lady, Miss A. M. Stennecke, whom he attended professionally, and whose estate he now claims.—On the 16th, in New York, William McCutcheon was sentenced to imprisonment for life for killing one James Shandley with a penknife.—At Newark, N. J., on the 17th, Thomas Lafon was found guilty of killing Joseph Hebring in December last, and sentenced to one year's imprisonment, and to pay a fine of \$500. The trial lasted four days and created considerable local excitement, as the prisoner was the son of an eminent physician, and the homicide had been unintentionally committed in defense of a younger brother.—On the 16th, at Beaver Dam, Wis., Putnam Stevens was shot while on a fishing excursion with Franklin Butterfield. As the latter holds a life insurance policy of \$5,000 on Stevens he has been committed for murder.—Two men in Jefferson County jail, Mo., on a charge of murder were taken out by a mob on the 15th and hung.—At Lexington, Ky., on the 15th, John W. Lee, a highly respected citizen, murdered his wife and then committed suicide. He had lately shown symptoms of insanity.—Two of the thieves who broke into the National Bank at New Windsor, Md., on the 23d ult., have been apprehended in New York. \$99,500 worth of stolen bonds was recovered.—A Miss McCarron was buried in Illinois recently with her gold watch and other ornaments. The next day it was found that the corpse had been despoiled, and even the silver screws of the coffin taken away.—Thomas Dunn died in New York on the 19th inst. from a wound in the abdomen, inflicted with an oyster-knife by Michael McGuire.—A German, Mr. Charles Van Hauer, on his way from St. Louis to New York, was drugged after leaving Chicago and robbed of a gold watch, diamond pin, and a large sum of money.—Edward Flynn, a young mechanic of Troy, N. Y., was set upon by four ruffians on the night of the 21st, who beat him so severely with clubs that he died in an hour. Three of the murderers have been arrested, but the ringleader is still at large.

A destructive fire broke out in Norwich, Conn., on the 13th; Apollo Hall and two adjoining buildings were destroyed; loss \$200,000.—A boiler in a brewery at Newark, N. J., exploded with a terrific report on the 17th, carrying away the roof and scattering bricks and timber in all directions. No lives lost.—The steamer *Glendale*, from Cincinnati to St. Louis, took fire near Green River Island on the 17th. The boat was run ashore, the women and children landed, and the fire finally extinguished by the crew and male passengers. Only the pilot-house was destroyed.—A barn and stables, two miles from Baltimore, containing a large number of cattle, horses, farming implements, etc., were destroyed on the 20th. Loss \$75,000. All the live stock were saved.—The Union Park Congregational Church, Chicago, was burnt down on the 21st. Loss, \$14,000.

On the 16th, at upper New Rochelle, N. Y., two little children of Mr. R. Cornell were playing with a loaded gun, when the younger, a girl of eight, was fatally shot in the abdomen.—In an oil refinery in Cleveland four men, engaged in repairs in one of the tanks, were overpowered by noxious gases and rendered insensible. They are expected to recover.—A son of Professor Whitebow, of Union College, N. J., was thrown from a hand-car on the Dutchess and Columbia Railroad on the 17th and fatally injured. Deceased was an engineer and 21 years old.

An extraordinary case of trance is reported from Burlington, Wis. A little German girl had an attack of measles and diphtheria from which she had nearly recovered on the 8th ult., when she fell into a state of coma, and has remained for twenty days without food and to all appearance lifeless. The heart seems to have ceased its pulsations, but blood flows from the veins if opened, the flesh is firm and fresh-looking, and a blister applied will act. Though the body has been enshrouded and placed in a coffin, its interment has been delayed to await the result of further developments.

The remains of J. Wilkes Booth were removed from the Arsenal in Washington on the 14th, and delivered to his relatives for reinterment in Baltimore Cemetery. The body was found to be in good preservation. The head was dissevered from the trunk, and one or two of the vertebrae and the small bone of one leg were missing. The long, curly locks looked fresh and well. All the clothes were in good condition.

At Chicago, Miss Mary Gilmore, a young Roman Catholic, has renounced Christianity and adopted Judaism. The ceremony of admitting her into communion with the descendants of Abraham was performed on the 13th, in the Garrison Street Jewish Synagogue. In accordance with the usual custom, the convert chose a new name, "Leah," and after her initiation was complete she was married to Mr. Bernard Berlian, a New York merchant.

A scene occurred in a Roman Catholic church at Auburn, N. Y., on the 21st. The bishop having removed the old pastor and appointed a new one in his place, the congregation refused to allow him to officiate. Some of the most prominent members led him from the altar out of church, and compelled the bishop to follow him. The affair is not likely to end without further trouble.

The skating match between Miss Maggie E. Elwood, of Brockville, Canada, and Miss Nellie Dean, of Chicago, came off at Buffalo on the 22d, and was won by the former by one point.

A little boy three years old, son of Mr. Krummenacker, of Forster's Meadow, L. I., was bitten by a rabid Newfoundland dog on the 18th ult., and died of hydrophobia on the 12th inst., after excruciating sufferings.

The excitement in San Francisco relative to the White Pine silver district of Nevada is increasing. Fifty-four companies, with a nominal aggregate capital of sixty-two million dollars, have gone to the mines.

The shock of an earthquake was felt in Alexandria, Va., on the night of the 14th. A slight shaking was also experienced in Washington Territory on the 11th.

The steamer *Mittie Stephens* took fire recently on Red River. Out of one hundred and six passengers on board sixty-three perished.

Weston is reported as having come to a stop in Buffalo for want of funds.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

ADVICES from Cuba show that the revolution is spreading over the island. Havana is practically in a state of siege. Bands of insurgents have made their appearance in several districts, and engagements have taken place between the troops and the rebels near Trinidad. Cienfuegos and Espiritu Santo plantations are being deserted, and the crops left to spoil. Filibusters, it is said, are leaving the Florida coast daily to join the rebels. General Dulce is adopting active measures for the suppression of the insurrection, and large reinforcements of troops from Spain are on their way to the island. The Spanish forces now under arms in Cuba are reported at 70,000. The Captain-General has issued a proclamation closing all ports through which the insurgents are likely to obtain supplies. The government authorities have refused to recognize the U. S. Consul except as a commercial agent, and naturalized Americans have been imprisoned without chance of trial. The volunteers have demanded that the captured rebels be put to death, but General Dulce firmly insists upon their being legally tried. Havana is still in a state of great excitement.

The New Dominion has been visited by a heavy snow-storm. In Montreal it is eight feet deep and some of the streets are impassable. The fall of snow this winter has been thirty-eight inches in excess of the average of the last twenty years. Several lumber merchants in the Ottawa district have closed operations on account of the difficulty of getting provisions.

The Eastern question appears definitely settled. The formal reply of Greece having been received by the conference and declared satisfactory, that body, after adopting a resolution in which the Great Powers reserve to themselves the right to protect the lives and property of the Turkish Christians, signed the protocol and dissolved. The Greek Chambers have been dissolved; the election of members of the new legislature takes place in May next. Turkish ports are again thrown open to Greek shipping.

Madrid has been excited by a vain attempt to assassinate General Prim. The cabinet is to be rearranged. No advance has been made in electing a monarch. In several cities popular demonstrations have been made in favor of the freedom of religious worship and the abolition of capital punishment. A decree has been issued establishing a uniform system of legal jurisdiction, abolishing ecclesiastical courts, and making other reforms in the Spanish colonies. The press urges the necessity of securing the friendship of the United States.

The new British Parliament was opened on the 16th. The Queen's speech was read by the Lord Chancellor. It announced that foreign relations were on a friendly footing, rejoiced over the pacific aspect of the Eastern question, hoped all differences with the United States would be amicably settled, regretted the disturbances in New Zealand, and declared the suspension of the *habeas corpus* in Ireland no longer necessary. The chief plank in the ministerial business programme is Irish redress. The *Times* is preparing the public for the rejection of the *Alabama* treaty. Mr. Gladstone is still confident of a satisfactory issue to the negotiations. Forty-five Fenians convicted of treason last year are to be released. Costello and Warren are already free.

The exciting ocean race between the Cunard steamer *Russia* and the Inman *City of Paris* has ended in favor of the latter by forty-five minutes. The voyage from New York to Queenstown was accomplished by the *City of Paris* in 8 days 15 hours and 15 minutes; by the *Russia* in 8 days 16 hours. In commercial and sporting circles heavy wagers were made on the result, the betting being in favor of the Cunard representative.

John and James Wray, father and son, indicted at St. Clair, Canada, for the murder of Robert Fleming, have been acquitted. The elder prisoner had annoyed deceased, who attacked him with a club, when the son interfered and cut him so shockingly with an axe that he died in a few hours.

REVIEWS.

All books designed for review in the ROUND TABLE must be sent to this office.

HISTORY OF IRELAND.*

THIS work is the fruit of great industry, learning, and acuteness directed by no ordinary talents; and not only serves to supply an undeniable deficiency in our historical literature, but is calculated largely to influence the opinions of its readers. The condition of Ireland, the magnitude of her miseries, the indignation and deeply-rooted sense of wrong generated in the minds of her people by centuries of oppression and misgovernment, have recently stimulated the wise and good of all denominations to co-operate for the adoption of decisive measures to allay party violence and raise the peasantry from their abyss of poverty and degradation. At present Ireland is in a transition state. Doubtless many waves of disturbance must pass over her before that troubled sea can entirely subside; and time must be allowed for morbid habits to give place to a more healthy action. But while her children here and at home echo the cry for justice set up by their forefathers, they are often ignorant of the primary causes of the civil and religious contentions which have so long agitated and disgraced their country, and conducted to the poverty and wretchedness of its people. For the Irish the annals of their own country must have a profound interest, and they will scarcely marvel that an inheritance of bitter hatred should have descended to them from far-off generations when they trace its sources to the times when, after Henry the Second's successful invasion, their forefathers were hunted and killed like game by persons qualified and unqualified; to the reign of Edward the First, when they asked that the benefit of English laws might be extended to them, and the barons prevented the English Justinian from granting the requests of "these wild gentlemen" whom they claimed as their "property;" or to a more recent period, when it was held to be high treason for an Englishman to marry with Irish blood. Laws were then enacted which, says Hallam, "have scarcely a parallel in European history." The idea of subduing these turbulent spirits by justice and mercy does not seem to have entered the minds of statesmen in those days; and even the poet Spenser, in whom we should expect to find more lofty and enlightened views, considered Ireland a hopeless case. He says:

"Marry to them have been divers good plots devised, and wise counsels cast already about reformation of that realm, but they say it is the fated destiny of that land that no purposes whatsoever which are meant for her good will prosper or take good effect; which, whether it proceed from the very genius of the soil, or influence of the stars, or that Almighty God ha'nt yet appointed the time for her reformation, or that He reserveth her in this unquiet state still for some secret scourge which shall by her come into England, it is had to be known, but yet much to be feared."

These matters, however, are of comparatively modern date, only reaching back some centuries, while the annals which appeal to the Irishman's pride of race and ancestry are, through the diligent research and erudition of the historian, carried back to almost prehistoric times. Patiently and with infinite care have the ancient Celtic manuscripts been studied and compared in the earnest endeavor to discern, through the clouds and mists of legend and tradition, precise and authenticated facts; and although the book is thereby somewhat overburdened with minute and curious learning, the world of letters will gain by these labors, and historic treasures long hidden from the common eye be made available to mankind at large. That the mythical and historical are so blended in these manuscripts as to render it difficult to separate them is most certain, but they agree in tracing the annals of Erin to a period anterior to the deluge, and the *Book of Invasions* records six distinct "takings," or colonizations, of Ireland before the Christian era. The chief sources from which the ancient records noted in this history of Ireland are drawn are the *Chronicum Scotorum* and the *Annals of the Four Masters*, in the latter of which it is stated that

"Forty days before the Deluge, Ceasar came to Ireland with fifty girls and three men—Bith, Ladhra, and Fintain their names. All authorities agree that Partholan was the first who colonized Ireland after the flood. His arrival is stated in the *Chronicum Scotorum* to have taken place in the sixtieth year of the age of Abraham."

Doubt and uncertainty surround all these annals, which afford ample grounds for controversy and speculation, chiefly interesting to antiquarians, but of little use to the rest of mankind. Still, some traditions appear to be based upon truth, especially those which surround the life of St. Patrick—that is, after his arrival in Ireland, for his birth-place has not been satisfactorily determined, authorities of equal weight being invoked to prove that the honor belongs to Dumbarton in Scotland, and to Gaul, whence he was brought captive; nevertheless, the conversion of Ireland to Christianity through his means, and the strength, valor, and self-devotion which he and St. Columba and others exercised for the improvement of the rough and turbulent race on whom their labors were bestowed, and to whom their humanizing influence was of especial benefit, are points beyond cavil. On the religion of pre-Christian Erin, her language, customs, and government, the Breton laws, the Ogham writing, and the origin of the celebrated Round Towers, the author affords us all the information which can be gleaned from the conflicting statements of ancient writers, together with the opinions of more recent antiquarians; but after the introduction of Christianity, and the consequent advancement in civilization, her records become more authentic; we pass at once from legendary to historic Ireland, and valuable information is interwoven in the narrative concerning the tenure of land and other matters, more important in tracing the subsequent history of the country than any investigations concerning the origin of her people. The invasion of the Danes and the destruction of the monasteries and seminaries by them; the reign and death of Brian Boromhe; the battle of Clontarf; and the treachery of the infamous Dermot MacMurrough,

* *An Illustrated History of Ireland, from the Earliest Period.* New York: Catholic Publication Society.

who contributed mainly to bring his country under the English yoke, are the chief landmarks in Irish history prior to the arrival of Henry the Second, of whom Cambrensis says that he was more given to "hunting than holiness," and whom a later historian styles a "most business-like king." With him came the institution of tithes; his son John was appointed king; Ireland no longer existed as an independent nation; her glory, prosperity, and tranquillity had perished.

During the reign of Henry and his successors the country was a prey to internal petty wars and domestic dissensions. In the reign of Edward the First the civil wars between the barons, especially the Burkes and the Geraldines, added to the aggressions of the foreign settlers, spread ruin and devastation throughout the country, and the humble petition of the natives for the introduction of English law, to extend to all alike, was refused by the crown.

"Their feeling toward the new lord of the soil can easily be understood; it was a feeling of open hostility of which they made no secret. They considered the usurper's claim unjust, and to deprive him of the possessions which he had obtained by force or fraud was the dearest wish of their hearts. This subject should be very carefully considered and thoroughly understood, for much, if not all, of the miseries which Ireland has endured have arisen from the fatal policy pursued at this period."

Accepting the division of the annals of Ireland into three eras, made by an English writer—namely, the era of military violence, the era of legal iniquity, and the era of religious persecution—our historian justly dates the beginning of the third era from the period of Henry the Eighth's accession to the throne. Through all the tangled mazes of civil and religious controversy she pursues the thread of her narrative with great discretion, and when approaching the critical period of the Reformation, although her partialities are of course noticeable, she endeavors to be accurate. The attempt of Henry to establish Protestantism in Ireland by the force of his own will was attended by the most disastrous consequences. During his reign, and those of his successors, the history of Ireland is one long record of suffering and oppression; of gross abuses in every part of the internal administration of the country; of rebellion put down by military force; of burnt monasteries and martyred priests; of treason and confiscations. But terrible as were many of the acts which disgraced the reigns of Henry and Elizabeth, they fell far short of those which marked the rule of Cromwell over the already half-depopulated island. The weak and shallow James was content to insult his Irish subjects by solemnly drinking at a public dinner "to the eternal damnation of the Papists," but the pious Lord Protector took upon himself the double task of punishing them in this world and hurrying them with all speed to the next. He began by massacring, during five days, the garrison of Drogheda, to whom quarter had been promised; and we have his own letters to show that of three thousand persons only thirty escaped. "This," he remarks, "hath been a marvellous great mercy." Whole towns were put up in lots and sold, and the Catholics banished from three-fourths of the kingdom. Many of the Irish soldiers who entered foreign service were compelled to leave their wives and children at home utterly unprovided for.

"These boys and girls, however, were easily disposed of by the government, and Sir William Petty states that six thousand were sent out as slaves to the West Indies. The Bristol sugar merchants traded in these human lives as if they had been so much merchandise; and merchandise, in truth, they were, for they could be had for a trifle, and they fetched a high price in the slave market."

In this manner did the Irish live and die under Cromwell, suffering by the sword, famine, persecution, and pestilence—for the plague came upon them to add to their miseries—and beholding their country confiscated and their race sold and banished. "There perished in the year 1641," says Sir W. Petty, "six hundred and fifty human beings, for whose blood some one must atone to God."

"But the trumpet had sounded the nation's doom. Confiscation and banishment, wholesale plunder and untold iniquity reigned supreme. The name of the God of justice was invoked to sanction the grossest outrages upon justice; and men who professed to have freed their own nation from the tyranny of king-craft and of popery, perpetrated a tyranny on another nation which has made the name of their leader a by-word and a curse."

What marvel, then, that even to this day the heaviest execration which an Irish peasant can utter is: "The curse of Cromwell be upon you!" We forbear to dwell at greater length upon this dark chronicle of crimes and persecutions perpetrated under the sacred name of religion; crimes which have generated a deep-rooted and cordial hatred of the English name in the minds of the vast majority of the Irish people, which have caused them to feel an ineradicable sense of injury, and which have afforded a seeming justification for those incessant outbreaks which neither brute force nor penal laws have sufficed to subdue.

As we approach more nearly to our own times the narrative of events is more detailed, and the reasoning applied to minute incidents likewise more definite; matters which have hitherto involved the necessity for voluminous reading are treated in a manner and within a compass which render them universally intelligible. Interesting as the work is, the author has not fallen into the very common error of writing the romance of history; nor does she indulge in the egotism of making her work the medium for exalting her own theories; but she has boldly and conscientiously endeavored by patient labor in the cause of truth to fulfil a sacred duty, and her attempt has been as successful as it is courageous. The illustrations merit special commendation.

THE CRUISE OF THE ALABAMA.*

HOWEVER widely opinions may differ respecting the moral aspects of the exploits of the *Sumter*, the *Alabama*, and their associate cruisers, the history of those exploits will long be regarded with profound interest. The magnitude of the operations accomplished by those ships with singularly slender means, the romantic character of their career, the delicate points of international law involved in the equipment and egress of the *Alabama* from a British port, will continue to suggest points of discussion and inquiry long after the bitterness of our civil strife shall have faded away, and its living actors shall move among us no more. Indeed, now that the United States Senate has rejected the *Alabama* treaty, it is impossible to say how long a period may elapse before the matters of disagreement originating with the famous vessel, sent to the bottom at last by the guns of the *Kearsarge*, shall be finally settled. In the meantime all the information that American or English publicists can get upon the subject—whatever the opinions or prejudices of those who afford such information—the better for an intelligent comprehension of what must always be reckoned one of the most eventful and important episodes of the national history. Hence we are very glad to see the narrative that Mr. Semmes, the late commander of the *Alabama*, has thought proper to lay before the American and

**Memoirs of Service Afloat during the War between the States.* By Admiral Raphael Semmes, of the late Confederate States Navy. Baltimore: Kelly, Piet & Co. 1869.

the British public. To most Northern readers, the book, to be sure, will be extremely unpalatable; but we do not know that for that reason it will necessarily be unwholesome. Nothing is healthier for individuals or nations than to hear the strongest, the most earnest, and even the most impassioned arguments against their own cherished beliefs, prejudices, or interests. It encourages the habit of judicial investigation, stimulates independence of thought, interrupts the pernicious custom that, especially in countries like ours, is apt to become so universal, of running like sheep into given convictions merely because others do so. Now, there is a great deal to be said about this *Alabama* question from the ultra-Confederate—that is, from Mr. Semmes's—point of view, and we think it a very good thing that he should say it and that the Northern people should listen. Personally, we think his whole argument a fallacious one. We thought and think the British government utterly in the wrong in the collateral matters of recognition and the escape of the Confederate cruisers. But, notwithstanding this, it is well to hear what each and all who disagree may have to say in support of their view of the subject. If our case is not strong enough to stand and overcome adverse argument, it is not strong enough to deserve to prevail. The common sense of the age practically upholds this theory. No such work as the one now before us could have been issued in England in the interest of the unsuccessful combatants five years after the end of the wars of the Roses or the Commonwealth. It is a distinct mark of progress that the story of "Admiral Raphael Semmes, of the late Confederate States Navy," should be published in the United States within the lustrum that saw the destruction of the *Alabama* and the surrender of Lee—should be published brimful of its own native, secession fire—and no man cry for its suppression or the decapitation of its author.

Mr. Semmes's book is substantially a narrative of the deeds and fate of the two vessels he successively commanded, the *Sumter* and the *Alabama*. He gives, to be sure, seven or eight preliminary chapters, in which he favors us with a historical account of the nature and origin of the American compact, the question of slavery, the right of secession, and the formation of the Confederate government; but on the whole his work would be better without these chapters. They contain nothing new or nothing that has not been as well if not better told before. Nor is the absence of novelty atoned by any particular lucidity or attractiveness of style. On the contrary, the text is rather commonplace and occasionally a little provincial. Like too many of his countrymen, Mr. Semmes persists in using the noun "loan" as a verb, and he indulges in other solecisms that are to us the reverse of fascinating. When, however, he has his sailing orders and gets on blue water he is natural, easy, and graphic, and the narrative is kept up with spirit and interest to the close. Of course the Yankees are all wrong and the Confederates all right, all the atrocities either committed or dreamt of during the war were the work or the imaginings of the former, and every man in the Southern army was a Sidney or a Bayard, *sans peur et sans reproche*. But then each reader who takes up a book written by the captain of the *Alabama* is quite at liberty to get his salt ready beforehand, and has perhaps no better right to look therein for Federal praises than in a New York city Republican newspaper for fair play toward a weekly independent journal that strives to be just. In some particulars wherein he is most severe we think Mr. Semmes's views are entirely borne out by the facts—notably in his strictures on the coarseness and ignorance of many United States consuls abroad. We fear—although this may be doing him an injustice—that long ago, before the war, Mr. Semmes would have hotly resented many of the criticisms on our national system and its representatives in which he now so freely and so properly indulges. The war did not make everything shameful that was not shameful before, although it made some things so. *Au reste*, it is only fair to an author who makes frequent slips in scholarship, and who is too trustworthy a partisan to see both sides of the shield, that we should acknowledge his unusual descriptive powers, the closeness of his observation for natural phenomena, and the fidelity with which he has studied and brings forward for our instruction the minutiae of his adventurous profession. Were he to put his best force into the attempt, we have little doubt Mr. Semmes could produce sea fiction that would do no discredit to Cooper, Marryat, or Chamier.

The mechanical features of this volume are praiseworthy. The copy that has reached us, with its excellent print, effective illustrations, and Russia binding, is worthy of any library; and its inviting appearance combines with the intrinsic merit and timely interest of its contents to render the work pretty certain of attracting extensive and permanent attention.

LIBRARY TABLE.

ADVENTURES IN THE APACHE COUNTRY: A Tour through Arizona and Sonora; with Notes on the Silver Regions of Nevada. By J. Ross Browne, author of etc., etc. Illustrated by the author. New York: Harper & Bros. 1869.—This is the reprint, in convenient and attractive book-form, with the original illustrations, of several of Ross Browne's sketches that appeared not long since in *Harper's*. The author's position as a writer is so definite and the character of his works so well known that a general criticism is rendered unnecessary. In reperusing the narratives with the delight that the author always inspires we notice a few minor points that may advantageously be considered in the preparation of another edition. Names of places and things in little-known regions are peculiarly difficult to catch and cage in writing, as every traveller knows, and none better, probably, than Ross Browne himself; but this, while an apology, is scarcely an excuse for some of the errors we find. "Corunncacion" is possibly sanctioned by use, but were better written Coronacion. Why will Mr. Browne always say *peccaho* instead of *picacho*? "Ariba" for *arriba*, "arastr" for *arrastra*, and "arroya" for *arroyo*, are scarcely admissible. "Tenaga" is usually, we believe, written *tenaja*. "Pedras pintadas" for *piedras pintadas*, and "agua caliente" for *agua caliente* are very bad. Some names of places, and of Indian tribes in Arizona, can hardly be said to have a fixed orthography; but it is unpleasant to find them spelled in various ways in the same book. "A Dr. Lecount," mentioned on page 87, is Dr. John L. Le Conte, the entomologist, of Philadelphia; and "Mr. Wrighton" (p. 230) is Mr. Wright, who went out as manager of the Santa Rita Company in the summer of '64, and was killed by the Apaches soon afterward, as the author correctly states. But decidedly the worst slip is the appearance of "Cereus grandeus" in several places as the name of the great cactus of Arizona. The term does not appear in any botanical work that we know of, and

we looked for "grandeus" in our Latin dictionary without success. The name of the plant in question is *Cereus (Lepidocereus) giganteus*. While upon the subject of cacti, we may give an item of information on a point that appears to puzzle Mr. Browne; for which we have no doubt he will be duly grateful. The author says (p. 77):

" . . . that peculiar and picturesque cactus so characteristic of the country, called by the Indians the *petayah*, but more generally known as the *suaro*, and recognized by botanists as the *Cereus giganteus*. A difference of opinion exists as to whether the *petayah* is not a distinct species from the *suaro*, but I never could find any two persons who could agree, after exhausting all their erudition upon the subject, upon any point except this—that neither of them knew anything about it. I am inclined to believe the *petayah* is the fruit of the *suaro*."

According to our latest and best authority upon the subject (Dr. George Engelmann*), the "suaro," also written *suwarro*, and, better, *saguaro*, is the native name of the plant, *C. giganteus*, which ranges in Arizona as high as 35°. The "petayah," usually spelled *pitahaya* or *pitajaya*, is a smaller and otherwise different species, the *Cereus Thurberi*, of a more southern habitat than the other, though the tree may be found associated. The last term, however, is loosely used to designate the esculent fruit of both species.

The statement (p. 100) that "the Apaches never remove their dead" after an engagement must be accepted with some qualification. At least one tribe—the Souto—have been known not only to remove, within a few hours after a fight, the bodies of the slain, but also to gather their arrows, etc., and to eradicate, as far as possible, all traces of the conflict. But the statement is undoubtedly correct as referring to general custom. The table of distances (p. 291) between all the principal points in Arizona, compiled from authentic sources, will be found of practical value to those having occasion for its use. The author also presents (p. 290) "some interesting statistics of the Indian tribes in Arizona." A rough estimate makes out the total number to be 59,600. We agree with him in considering this estimate as altogether too large; and believe that the figures to which he would reduce it—30,000—are still in excess of the true number. The following paragraph (p. 288) is as true to-day as when it was penned, and is the gist of the whole matter; we would only add to it that the Apaches must be either subdued or exterminated:

"My impressions of Arizona may be summed up in a few words. I believe it to be a territory wonderfully rich in minerals, but subject to greater drawbacks than any of our territorial possessions. It will be many years before its mineral resources can be fully and fairly developed. Emigration must be encouraged by increased military protection; capital must be expended without the hope of immediate and extraordinary returns; civil law must be established on a firm basis, and facilities of communication fostered by legislation of Congress."

The Heroism of the Confederacy; or, Truth and Justice. By Miss Florence J. O'Connor. New Orleans: A. Eyrich, successor to A. Blelock & Co. 1869.—Fired by the example of Miss Evans and fortified by a perusal of General Beauregard's orders, Miss O'Connor has undertaken the pious task of dissipating the foul calumnies wherewith Northern malignity and envy have sought to obscure the brightness of Southern heroism and virtue. In a style which gracefully combines the vivacity and terseness of *The Scottish Chiefs* with the limpid sweetness and *vraisemblance* of the last thrilling romance in the *Ledger*, she sets forth for the admiration of the world and for our especial abasement the elegance and fiery valor of the Southern gentleman, the loveliness, profound erudition, manifold accomplishments, and patriotism of the Southern lady, as contrasted with the cowardice, ignorance, vulgarity, and ugliness of their Northern counterparts. The picture she draws of Louisiana society before the war is gorgeous in the extreme. All day long "in halls of polished marble, with beautifully carved doors, which an inhabitant of the Orient might envy," women robed in point lace and diamonds and more beautiful than an angel's dream, and men of a *distingué*-ness altogether beyond words, discuss, in language which the benighted Northern mind finds it difficult to comprehend, politics, love, and war, the excellence of slavery, crimes and insolence and treachery of the black-hearted Yankee, the long-suffering patience and magnanimity of the down-trodden South. Around them, respectfully admiring and drinking deep draughts of political wisdom from their sparkling converse, stand eager representatives of the titled aristocracy of Europe, glad to be recognized as their social peers, among whom a real French count and an undoubted English earl are conspicuous by their flashing coronets and their chivalric disregard of grammar. In deference to these distinguished—we beg Miss O'Connor's pardon, *distingué*—foreigners much of the conversation is conducted in French of singular impurity and incorrectness—in fact, it appears to be of that variety known in New Orleans as bumboat French—whereupon the Gallic nobleman shows he can be as resplendently ungrammatical in his own sweet tongue as in the ruder speech of perfidious Albion. No one talks for less than half an hour at a time, and it seems to be a point of honor with each to use only the very longest words, and the only pauses in the eloquent strife are when the doors of the *salle à manger* (there were no dining-rooms in that favored land) were thrown open, disclosing "banquets that the most fastidious disciple of Epicurus, etc., etc." So "the hours rolled on in revelry" until the war-cloud bursts; the tocsin peals, and so does the Southern hero. The brilliant pageant vanishes, and in its stead we have the hideous apparition of the Beast Butler and the monster Farragut. But why continue the harrowing tale, which Miss O'Connor has told so much better than we possibly could? To her we refer the palpitating reader who pants for further pictures of this peerless society, who longs to learn the secret of that unhappy fortune which after giving victory to the Southern arms on every battle-field throughout the war, yet refused them final triumph. As a further inducement, let us add that Miss O'Connor's *brochure* is embellished by a quantity of poetry of which this is a favorable specimen:

"THE LADIES OF NEW ORLEANS' FAREWELL TO GENERAL BUTLER.

"We fill this cup to one made up
Of baseness alone,
The caitiff of his dastard crew,
The seeming paragon,
Who had a coward heart bestowed
And brutal instincts given,
In fiendish mirth then spawned on earth
To shame the God of Heaven."

There are four more stanzas as good as this, and the whole concludes:

"Farewell! and if in hell there dwells
A demon such as thou,
Then, Satan, yield the sceptre up,
Thy mission's over now."

This is equal to a Congressional debate; its subject could scarcely excel it in the way of polished and elegant sarcasm. Need we add that the price of the book is only \$1?

BOOKS RECEIVED.

J. B. LIPPINCOTT & Co., Philadelphia.—*World Pictures in Capitals.* By Edward Tuckerman Potter, architect. With a Descriptive Legend, by Henry Coppée. 1869.
W. M. WHITE & Co., Boston and New York.—*The Gospel of Good and Evil.* Pp. 360. 1869.
JOHN E. POTTER & Co., Philadelphia.—*John Smith's Funny Adventurers on a Crutch.* By A. F. Hill, with illustrations. Pp. 374. 1869.
ELDRIDGE & BROTHER, Philadelphia.—*Select Orations of Marcus Tullius Cicero.* By George Stuart, A.M. Pp. 334. 1869.
SEVER, FRANCIS & Co., Boston.—*The Golden Treasury of the Best Songs and Lyrical Poems in the English Language.* Selected and arranged, with notes, by Francis Turner Palgrave, Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford. Pp. 405. 1869.

HURD & HOUGHTON, New York.—*Western Wonders, and other Poems.* By John James Piatt. Pp. 231. 1869.

The Planet: A Song of a Distant World. By Larry Best. Pp. 161. 1869.
T. B. PETERSON & BROTHERS, Philadelphia.—*Colonel Thorpe's Scenes in Arkansas.* By J. M. Field, Esq., of the St. Louis Reveille. 1869.

PAMPHLETS.

T. B. PETERSON & BROTHERS, Philadelphia.—*Count of Monte Cristo.* With elegant illustrations, by Alexander Dumas.—*Hans Breitmann's Party, with other ballads.* By Charles G. Leland.—*Twelve months of Matrimony.* By Emilie F. Carlen. J. W. SCHERMERHORN & Co., New York.—*Some Thoughts Concerning Education.* By John Locke. *Good Words, the Kansas Educational Journal,*

the New Eclectic Magazine, Putnam's Monthly Magazine, the Sunday Magazine, Every Saturday, the Riverside Magazine, Our Young Folks, Lippincott's Magazine, the Beloit College Monthly, the Catholic World, Harper's Monthly Magazine, the Old Guard, American Law Register, Church Monthly of the Minnesota Monthly, the Medical Archives. Arne: A Sketch of Norwegian Life.

TABLE-TALK.

OLE BULL shares with the humblest members of his profession a disposition to aid the unfortunate, and to render services gratuitously which in them is often the only redeeming trait amid many failings, but in him one more grace added to a character of singular uprightness and purity. Those who did not hear his exquisitely simple and tender playing of Rossini's lovely *Di tanti palpiti* at the concert to Mrs. Goldbeck, on the 16th, lost a great pleasure; indeed, the whole concert was interesting. Mr. Henry Timm, the best and most sympathetic accompanist New York has ever had, was the conductor, and perhaps partly on this account all engaged were in the happiest vein. Miss Adelaide Phillips was in the best possible voice, and gave *Non più mesta* in a manner worthy of that splendid piece of vocal display. Messrs. Morgan and Mills did great things with a fine piano-forte and a bad organ, and Madame Lanari gave the audience an excuse for that animated chat which is sometimes not the least agreeable part of a musical evening. On Saturday, the 20th, Ole Bull gave a concert to the members of his troupe, and played one of his own characteristic fantasias on northern airs, and also showed his freedom from that vanity which too often puts self before art in the minds of so-called *virtuosi* by giving in admirable style Mozart's great concerto in D major. It would be well if this example should influence Mr. J. N. Pattison, who also appeared on this occasion, to turn his attention to legitimate piano-forte playing. Miss S. W. Barton did herself credit by choosing Handel's difficult but noble *Lascio ch'io pianga*, and Mr. Gustavus F. Hall, as usual, sang songs which apart from being well rendered were themselves worth listening to.

NEW dailies are planted, and blossom and bear fruit, almost every month now in New York, and some draw fleeting patronage by dint of novelty, some by sheer impudence, and some, like the Shakespearian revivals for the moment in vogue, by force of scenery and decorations; but the old *Express* still keeps the even tenor of its way, most liked by those who best know it, steadily consistent in its cherished principles, various and comprehensive in its departments, and happily meeting through the tact of long experience the tastes, the wishes, and the needs of its readers. Papers that seek to rival or supplant it rise and fall, but the *Express* is a solid "institution," taking no heed of the fluctuations of times or seasons, and certain, happen what will, of staunch support. As the steadfast advocate of principles to uphold which has long been, materially speaking, to lose rather than to gain, the *Express* deserves respect; as an excellent newspaper it deserves regular attention from both readers and advertisers, and we are glad to know on very good authority that these deserts are regularly acknowledged by a public which, fickle as it is said to be, has a curious habit of standing by old friends.

WE would seriously suggest to the Velocipedal Volunteers—and the advice of the knights of the *Round Table* on such a subject ought to be valuable—that to their other accomplishments the young members of this popular corps should add the art of fencing. This would give an ease and grace to their carriage and deportment, and a finished smoothness to their movements, without which their handsome figures will lack the full perfection of manly beauty. Besides, it would just supply that exercise to the arms and chest which the bicycle fails to afford, and so secure the harmonious development of the whole body. Then only imagine how irresistible—to the fairer half of creation, at least—would be the charge of a battalion of these novel chasseurs, as with swords gleaming and steeds wildly rotating they swooped upon the foe. Truly many a swift, burnished courser would be the wheel of fortune leading its rider to glory—or matrimony.

THE palindrome, literally a running back again, consists of a word, phrase, or sentence which reads the same backward or forward. Madam and Hannah are instances of words. One of the best phrases is Adam's first probable observation to Eve, "Madam, I'm Adam." Another is the reputed answer of Napoleon when at St. Helena to the inquiry if he could have sacked London, "Able was I ere I saw Elba." "Lewd did I live" becomes "Evil did I dwel," and the Latin "Roma tibi subito motibus ibit amor" is another example. The same form sometimes finds expression in music, particularly in double chants where the last half consists of an inversion of the first. Dr. Crotch, Havergal, and other composers have left some good instances of this *recte et retro* chanting.

A RATHER remarkable incident occurred in a New York court a few days ago. A wretch named Kenny pleaded guilty to a rape, attended with aggravating circumstances, upon Mary Velasco, a young girl of seventeen from Elizabeth, N. J. Recorder Hackett intended to give him twenty years in the State Prison, but his victim having proposed marriage and the ruffian given his consent thereto, the ceremony was duly performed by the Recorder, who, however, holds in abeyance the threatened judgment as a security for the culprit's good behavior. It seems incredible that any decent young woman after such an experience should wish to screen, much less to wed, the monster, and equally inexplicable that the

* Cf. Engl., *Cactaceæ of the United States and Mexican Boundary Survey*, Vol. II., Part 1, pp. 42, 43.

Recorder should allow him to escape so easily the punishment he had richly merited.

THE utilization of solar heat is a problem at present attracting some attention. Can this be done artificially to any practical extent? Our vast deposits of coal, mineralogists tell us, are but the accumulation of carbon, eliminated from the atmosphere by vegetable organisms under the action of solar light and heat. It will be another leaflet in the laurel crown of science if she can add one more to the many triumphs she has recently won over the great world of matter. A Frenchman, M. Mouchat, who has been experimenting on the subject, states that upward of one-half of the solar heat may be gathered for economic purposes at a small cost. At Paris, he says, a surface of a square metre exposed to the sun on a fine day receives on an average throughout the year sufficient heat to raise a litre of water from the freezing to the boiling point in ten minutes. Further researches may possibly lead to practical results, and the time may be not far distant when the changing seasons will give place to permanent ethereal mildness, the excess of heat in summer being abstracted and bottled up to mitigate the severity of winter.

THE chief duty of a postage stamp is to stick, but the mucilage used is often so poor that an important letter is frequently lost or seriously delayed through the shortcomings of the postal department, whose business it is to reject all stamps not properly prepared. Till our government officials learn to do their duty the only remedy is for the public to coat with fresh mucilage every stamp despatched on important business, or, for that matter, every postage label sent out.

THE transits of Venus in 1874 and 1882 will be the greatest astronomical events of this century. The Royal Astronomical Society of London have already commenced their preparations to secure scientific observations of the phenomena, and eminent men are volunteering for the service. We trust our own scientists will not be found napping, but take timely steps to make the most of these rare occurrences.

THE makers of velocipedes have been startled by the discovery that a cute Yankee obtained a patent in this country for the French invention a couple of years ago. As far as we have heard the water velocipede has not yet been introduced here, but in Paris it is very common. The latest style consists of two floating tubes of tin, in the shape of cigars. They are connected by two bars of iron which support the wheel. This is moved by pedals like the fore-wheel of an ordinary velocipede. The rider sits on a saddle just behind the wheel and easily drives his machine at the rate of six or eight knots an hour.

WE have received the first number of a new college monthly, *Index Universitatis*, issued by the University of Chicago. The contents, part original and part selected, are varied, but the style of the former is crude and uncouth. Thus: "We clambered up the Cumberland Mountains, sometimes upon our hands and knees, and sometimes"—how, on their heads or their feet?—"and sometimes climbed around the deep gulches that open in their sides." We are a little dubious, too, respecting certain slang phrases forming, ironically or otherwise, the "crowning glory of the American people;" but we must deal tenderly with a first effort. By-and-by the young sapling will be able, we hope, to bear the adverse frosts of criticism.

AN exchange states, as an example of imperfect orthographic acquirements, that a prize was recently offered to any member of the Connecticut Teacher's Institute who would write and spell correctly the following sentence: "It is an agreeable sight to witness the unparalleled embarrassment of a harassed pedler attempting to gauge the symmetry of a peeled onion, which a sibyl has stabbed with a poniard, regardless of the innuendoes of the lilies of cornelian hue." Thirty-eight teachers competed, but not one was successful.

Warwick or the Lost Nationalities of America, is the title of a new novel shortly to be published by Carleton. The author, Mr. Walworth, first made his appearance as a writer in the *Home Journal*, to whose editor and proprietor, Mr. Morris Phillips, the new work is appropriately dedicated.

SIMON STERN, ESQ., who has given much attention to the subject, is to deliver a free lecture at the Cooper Union on Saturday, Feb. 27, on representative government.

MR. CORNELIUS MATHEWS, inspired by the publication of Mr. Longfellow's *New England Tragedies*, has thought it worth while to "exhume from a box," where, he says, "it has lain in the dust for sixteen years, the 'remainder' of the edition of *Witchcraft* printed in 1852." He adds that he "has been specially incited to resurrectionize the ancient pamphlet in the belief that it might at this time and in the connection suggested afford the comparative critic matter for curious speculation." We quite agree with him, and our speculation has taken the direction, how Mr. Cornelius Mathews, who in sixteen years ought reasonably to have acquired some increase of wisdom, could possibly have been so ill-advised as to undo the friendly work of three lustres, and disturb the peaceful and dusty repose of a tragedy whose value appears to have been very accurately estimated by the play-loving public of 1852. Yet, aside from our concern for whatever reputation Mr. Cornelius Mathews may have had to endanger by this unaccountable weakness, we are rather glad than otherwise that he has indulged his antiquarian taste; for it has resolved a doubt that for some time quite troubled us, and that was, whether it was possible, out of the same materials, to produce a worse tragedy than Professor Longfellow has educed from the playful eccentricities of his Quaker-hanging and witch-burning ancestry. *Consideratis considerandis*, for at his worst Professor Longfellow still shows himself the poet and scholar who is entitled to all literary reverence. Mr. Mathews has fairly earned our gratitude by beating his rival in the race for this honorable distinction, and we think his tragedy entitled, on that score at least, to the consideration he claims for it.

MR. J. GEORGE HODGINS, an English Jenkins, has compiled a volume of *Sketches and Anecdotes of her Majesty the Queen*. It seems that the book is made up from scraps which have appeared in twenty volumes of the *Journal of Education*, published in Upper Canada, and that the object of reproducing them was "to provide selections for school readings, and to familiarize the youth of the country with the admirable personal qualities of our beloved Sovereign, her late lamented Consort, and the other members of the royal family." A charitably-disposed English reviewer thinks that the compiler "has not been over-cautious

in the selection of his stories," and that "some of the anecdotes might have been left out with advantage." What is delicately hinted here we have no means of knowing, not having chanced to see the book; but while there can be no criticism upon the impulse of loyalty as mentioned above in suggesting the publication, it strikes us rather oddly that such a collection should be esteemed to furnish good selections for school readings. Imagine, instead of the hackneyed extracts from Halleck, Cooper, Bryant, Shakespeare, Poe, Willis, and Miss Mitford, which form the bulk of school readers, a collection of anecdotes of American Presidents, from Washington to Lincoln, put into the hands of American youth for reading and declamation!

IN London, as in New York, the necessity of providing some improved means to pedestrians for crossing crowded thoroughfares is urgent. Official returns state the number of deaths from accidents in the streets of the British metropolis to be nearly as great as in all the collieries in the kingdom. The experience of the Fulton Street bridge having shaken confidence in that means of transit, it is now proposed to substitute the tunnelling of crossings. The ascent and descent it is calculated would not exceed ten feet, and the bottom of the passage could be reached by an easy gradient. The suggestion is novel and apparently practicable, and worth trying as an experiment in our own crowded streets.

THE London papers have of late been discussing hair-dyes. Subject to the usual amount of exaggeration, the testimony has uniformly been against the use of the preparations of lead and silver, which become absorbed into the system and result in paralysis and other evils. Almost the only, if not the only, innocuous dark dye is said to be a weak solution of acetate of iron mixed with glycerine, which gradually darkens the hair and has no effect beyond that of a slight tonic. If persons will dye their hair—and there can be no moral objection to the practice—chemists and hair-dressers should be consulted as to the best means of accomplishing this without incurring physical risks.

IT is, perhaps, not a very remarkable coincidence that the taste for scanty if not indecent costumes on the stage should be equally as pronounced in Paris and London as in our own large cities. The London theatres draw in exact proportion to the number of females employed and the amount of their forms presented to the gaze of the spectators, while actresses who object to be so exhibited must be content with inferior pay. In the new play *Séraphine*, recently brought out in Paris, the following dialogue occurs: "Malheureux enfant," exclaims Séraphine to Sulpice, "vous avez vu le corps du ballet! 'Ah, c'est bien vrai,' dit naïvement Sulpice, 'on leur voit tout le corps.'" The *Presse Libre* makes a husband say, "Je vais finir ma soirée à l'opéra." His friend replies, "Y pensez-vous! un jour de carême?" "Basta! les danseuses sont si mignonnes!" returns the husband.

THERE is some talk of a new tunnel under the Thames. The future passengers are to be conveyed under the river in an omnibus, to be let down, carried across, and brought to the surface again by hydraulic pressure. This plan is considered preferable to the present ferries, and cheaper than a bridge. In fact, tunnelling is just now occupying unusual attention; and the surveys that have been made of the Channel between England and France show that it is quite possible to connect the two countries by an underground railway.

THE fifth letter of Hernando Cortes to the Emperor Charles V. has just been for the first time printed in English. The narrative describes the eventful expedition of Cortes to the Bay of Honduras in 1525.

"With a handful of men," writes the editor, "with no other assistance but that of a small compass, and of a very imperfect map furnished him by the natives of Tabasco, marking the principal places visited by Indian traders in their wanderings over those wild regions—with such guides as from time to time he could pick up in his journey, Cortes traversed that broad and level tract which forms the base of Yucatan, and spreads from the Coatzacoalco River to the head of the gulf called by the Spaniards of those times Golfo de las Híbueras, and now known as Bay of Honduras—thus performing one of the longest and most perilous marches ever attempted in ancient or modern times."

The *London Review* says the story of the exploit is a perfect romance, and that few books of travel and adventure are more full of fascinating elements.

BRITISH revivalists have introduced a new style of hymn, founded upon popular comic songs. The most recent specimen is by a converted clown convicted some years ago of bigamy. Here are the first and last verses:

"I've given my heart to Jesus,
And mean to keep it so!
If the Devil wants to have it all,
I'll tell him—'Not for Joe.'

"Lord give me strength to fight,
And battle every foe;
If tempted to forsake my Gon,
To cry out—'Not for Joe.'"

THE *London Builder* states that in certain excavations lately made on the banks of the Koura, at about half a mile from its confluence with the Arago, near Tiflis, the remains of an ancient city have been discovered. The tops of the houses are covered with a thick layer of earth. The supposition is that the catastrophe by which the place was engulfed occurred two thousand years ago. A subterranean passage has also been found under the river. The workmen have collected several coins and earthen vases.

ONE of the latest amusements of Paris is the *Album of Confessions*, a handsome blank-book, its tinted pages headed by engraved questions, below which answers are written by those to whom the book is handed. Most of the queries turn on love and flirtation, and create great amusement; such questions, too, as "Did you ever tell a falsehood?" "Did you ever take anything by mistake?" or "What do you desire most in the world?" eliciting ingenious and evasive reponses.

THE *London Times* has been driven by its cheap competitors to the innovation of publishing at the head of its editorials a table of contents. Before long it will have to resort to the free use of the telegraph and other "modern improvements" to retain its prestige.

FATHER MINJEARD, the celebrated French preacher, is reported insane. Some eight years ago his advent sermons at the Madeleine, Paris, attracted immense crowds. His first charity sermon produced nearly \$5,000, beside rings and jewels which enthusiastic ladies flung into the bags of the collectors. He is about thirty-five years old.

CHESS.

THE confession may be somewhat humiliating, yet candor impels us to the admission that, with a few rare exceptions, the skill of first-class amateurs in this country would rank at best as third-rate if judged according to the standard of European play. To assert that we have not here every intellectual element which with proper cultivation would be capable of producing the highest order of excellence, were simply to give utterance to an absurdity; and we incline to the opinion that the sole cause of this lamentable disparity may be found in the different style of practice which obtains among Chess-players in the United States and in the Old World. In this connection we would instance the invariable custom at the clubs and other favorite places of resort for the Chess-players of London and Paris, and which prevails to a greater or less extent throughout the continent of Europe, of having some small pecuniary stake contingent upon the result of every game; a system which, as yet, is comparatively unknown, or at least but rarely adopted, at similar establishments on this side of the Atlantic.

Among the very many benefits thus arising may be instanced the implied necessity thereby involved of adhering rigidly to the strict rules of the game. It tends also to inhibit the exceptional practice so common to the tyro of desiring to contend on even terms with the more practised player, capable of giving him large odds. The stake, no matter of how trivial value, serves as a marker for games lost and won; and will be found to produce a very material effect in the correction of a careless habit of play; there being an instinct inherent in our very nature to strive our utmost to wrest from a rival's grasp the visible and tangible prize for which each contends. In fine, the simple fact that there is a *something* to be contended for it of itself lends interest to contests between combatants differing in force no matter how widely; while in the long run it will have the assured effect of equalizing such contests by regulating the advantage rendered by the stronger to the weaker player.

THE RECENT TOURNAMENT AT THE EUROPA CHESS ROOMS.—AWARD OF PRIZES.—The play at this tournament having been brought to a close on Wednesday, 17th instant, the final duty of awarding the prizes next devolved upon the committee; and after a careful scrutiny of the debtor and creditor account of each competitor, they were ultimately apportioned as follows:

1st Prize.—Mr. E. Delmar, who wins 54 games and loses 8
2d " " Mr. J. Mason, " 41 " 10
3d " " Mr. F. Perrin, " 38 " 13
4th " " Dr. Barnett, " 34 " 12
5th " " Mr. Schaffer, " 37 " 14
6th " " Mr. DeCon, " 37 " 14

The remarkable equality evinced in the struggle for the four minor prizes, as shown by the above table, cannot fail to strike the observer. While Mr. Perrin leads Dr. Barnett by a fraction only, in the proportion of gain and loss, the score of Messrs. Schaffer and DeCon will be seen to be a dead even. In the latter instance, a rubber of three games was subsequently played between the parties interested, which resulted in the winning of the odd game by Mr. Schaffer, who thus became entitled to the fifth prize.

GAME XXV.

The following stubbornly contested game, amply deserving attention on its intrinsic merits, is rendered doubly interesting by the circumstances under which it was conducted; having been played a few evenings since by Captain Mackenzie, blindfold, against Mr. M. S., one of the leading amateurs of the New York Chess Club:

EVANS' GAMBIT.

WHITE—*Capt. M.* BLACK—*Mr. M. S.*

1. P to K4	1. P to K4
2. Kt to B3	2. Kt to B3
3. B to Q4	3. B to Q4
4. P to QK4	4. P takes P
5. P to B3	5. B to Q4
6. Castles	6. P to Q3
7. P to Q4	7. B to K3

In place of the usual move P takes P, Black thus leaves the beaten track in the hope that his sightless assailant, in the attempt to follow, may tumble into the ditch.

8. P takes P	8. P takes P
9. Q to K3	

Captain Mackenzie observed after the game was ended that he thought it would have been better play to take KtP with B ch, followed by Kt takes KtP ch, etc.

10. B to QR3	9. Q to K2
11. Kt to Q2	10. Q to K3
12. K to R	11. Kt to K2
13. QR to Q	12. Castles
14. B takes B	13. B to K3
15. Q to B2	14. Q takes B
16. Kt to K15	15. KR to Q
17. Kt to R3	16. Q to B3
18. Kt to Q4	17. P to KK14
19. Kt to Kt	18. P to K15
20. Q to K2	19. Kt to K3
21. P to KK13	20. P to K4
22. Q takes R	21. R takes R
23. Q to K2	22. QR to Q
24. B to QB	23. K to K2
25. Kt takes B	24. Q to K3
26. P to KB3	25. R takes Kt
27. P takes P	26. R to KR
28. R to B5	27. P takes P
29. R to K5	28. QKt to K2

Thus insuring the capture of adverse pawn at Kt5—a most important acquisition for White. And all this without sight of men or board!

29. P to QB3	30. R to QR
30. R takes KtP	31. R to K5
31. P to QR3	32. Kt to Q4

A good move; and singularly well adapted to inveigle the blindfold player.

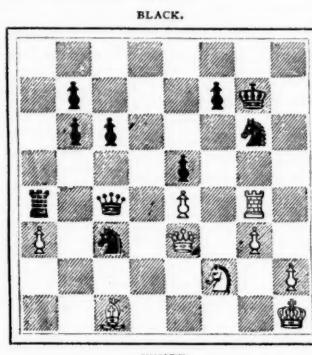
33. Kt to B2	33. Kt takes BP
34. Q to K3	34. Q to B5

This pawn was a mere bait, in taking which Black overreaches himself and the blind man has his opponent in the ditch, after all.

34. Q to K3	34. Q to B5
Probably his best move, as it would never do to leave Kt5 to his fate; and, against careful play, we believe that White can still do no more than draw the	

game.

game. The critical position now presenting itself is given on the appended diagram:



WHITE. 35. Q to R6 ch 35. K to Kt

BLACK. 35. Kt to Kt 36. Q to K7

It will be observed that White declines the draw which is optional with him by 35. R takes Kt ch, 36. Q takes P ch, etc., when should Black King attempt to evade perpetual check by retreating to the Queen's side of the board, he would be checkmated with ease.

37. B to Kt5 36. Q to K7

Black here fails to profit by the lapsus of his opponent. Had the former now played Kt to Q8, he must inevitably have won the game.

38. R takes Kt 38. R takes R

39. B to B6 And Black resigned the game; perhaps a little prematurely, as although to evade the threatened mate he must necessarily sacrifice a piece, yet his Pawns on the Queen's side, if well played, are still calculated to give his opponent much trouble.

GAME XXVI.

Between Messrs. Wisker and Steinitz in the late Handicap Tournament of the British Chess Association.

KING'S KNIGHT'S OPENING.

WHITE— <i>Mr. W.</i>	BLACK— <i>Mr. S.</i>
1. P to K4	1. P to K4
2. Kt to KB3	2. Kt to KB3
3. P to QB3	3. P to Q4

The German *Handbuch* recommends P to KB4.

4. Q to QR4 B to Kt5 is more commonly played.

4. P to KB3 A novel defence, and one which we suspect Mr. Steinitz would scarcely adopt against a player of the same calibre as himself.

5. B to QKt5 5. Kt to K2

6. Q takes P 6. Q takes P

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